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# Taliban agree to cease-fire

## Council decision opens window for peace deal, US withdrawal from Afghanistan

By KATHY GANNON and RAHIM FAIEZ  
*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban's ruling council agreed Sunday to a temporary cease-fire in Afghanistan, providing a window in which a peace agreement with the United States can be signed, officials from the insurgent group said. They didn't say when it would begin.

A cease-fire, which had been demanded

by Washington before any peace agreement could be signed, would allow the U.S. to bring home its troops from Afghanistan and end its 18-year military engagement there, America's longest.

There was no immediate response from Washington.

The U.S. wants any deal to include a promise from the Taliban that Afghanistan would not be used as a base by ter-

rorist groups. The U.S. currently has an estimated 12,000 troops in Afghanistan.

The Taliban chief must approve the cease-fire decision but that was expected. The duration of the cease-fire was not specified but it was suggested it would last for 10 days. A member of the Rasoul group, a breakaway Taliban faction, told Stars and Stripes some Taliban leaders still have disagreements over the cease-fire.

Four members of the Taliban negotiating team met for a week with the ruling council before they agreed on the brief cease-fire. The negotiating team returned Sunday to Qatar, where the Taliban maintain their political office and where U.S. special peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has been holding peace talks with the religious militia since September 2018.

SEE TALIBAN ON PAGE 5

## Tigers on track for showdown

Clemson, LSU set up battle of unbeaten for national championship

College football, Back page



Top: Clemson safety Nolan Turner intercepts a pass with 37 seconds left to seal a 29-23 victory over Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday night. Left: Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence accounted for three touchdowns. Right: Joe Burrow threw for seven TDs and ran for another as LSU routed Oklahoma 63-28 in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta.

AP photos

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Jim Beam fined in bourbon spill that killed fish

*Associated Press*

VERSAILLES, Ky. — Jim Beam was fined \$600,000 earlier this month after a July warehouse fire sent a nearly 23-mile plume of bourbon into the Kentucky and Ohio rivers, killing fish.

The distiller agreed to the fine in a Dec. 6 order from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, *The Courier-Journal* reported. Jim Beam will also reimburse the state agency \$112,000.

The July 3 fire was started

when lightning struck a massive barrel warehouse near the Woodford-Franklin County line. About 40,000 barrels of aging whiskey were destroyed, with the runoff pouring into nearby Glens Creek and then downstream into the rivers.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources found dead fish along 62 miles of Glenss Creek and the Kentucky River.

In a comment to the newspaper, Beam Suntory, the Chicago-

based spirits company that owns Jim Beam, said: "While we were able to minimize impacts to the surrounding environment and wildlife ... we recognize the regrettable and unavoidable impacts of the incident and have been committed to doing what we can to restore the environment. That includes making payments to the state to compensate for time spent, resources utilized and costs to supplement the local fish population."

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Swiss franc (France).....	
Euro costs (Dec. 30).....	\$1,144.00	Thailand (Bath).....	0.07134
Dollar buys (Dec. 30).....	60.674	Turkey (Lira).....	5.9581
British pound (Dec. 30).....	\$1.34	<b>Military exchange rates</b> are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Rates are in U.S. dollars for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-U.S. currencies, rates are for purchasing British pounds in Germany; check with your local military bank for the current rate. Interest rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currency rates as of Dec. 30. For the dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.	
Japanese yen (Dec. 30).....	107.80		
Yen buys (Dec. 30).....	107.80		
<b>Commercial rates</b>			
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3770		
British pound (Dec. 30).....	\$1.3093		
Canada (Dollar).....	1.3070		
China (Yuan).....	6.9359		
Denmark (Krone).....	6.6750		
Egypt (Pound).....	16.0390		
Euro buys (Dec. 30).....	\$1,138.00		
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	7.7874		
Hungary (Forint).....	200.48		
India (Rupee).....	47.565		
Japan (Yen).....	108.40		
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.2667		
Norway (Krone).....	8.8127		
Philippines (Peso).....	50.82		
Poland (Zloty).....	2.0540		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7521		
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.2519		
South Korea (Won).....	186.07		

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate .....	4.75
Discount rate .....	2.25
Federal funds market rate .....	1.55
3-month bill .....	1.53
30-year bond .....	2.31

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



## MONDAY IN EUROPE

**TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

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## MIDEAST

# US retaliates for rocket attacks in Iraq

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

IRBIL, Iraq — The U.S. military struck five facilities used by an Iran-backed militia in Iraq and Syria blamed for a rocket attack that killed an American contractor.

The Pentagon said Sunday the move was in response to a series of such rocket attacks on Iraqi bases where American troops are deployed as part of the anti-Islamic State coalition Operation Inherent Resolve.

"These locations included weapon storage facilities and command and control locations that [Shiite militia Kata'ib Hezbollah] uses to plan and execute attacks on OIR coalition forces," Jonathan Hoffman, chief Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement.

The news comes two days after a barrage of 30 rockets struck the K1 base in Kirkuk, killing a U.S. civilian contractor and wounding four American service members and two Iraqi troops as forces were preparing for an anti-ISIS operation.

Hoffman attributed that strike

to Kata'ib Hezbollah, using the initials KH. Also known as the Hezbollah Brigades, the Shiite militia has close ties to Iran and the Lebanese militant group of the same name and was one of several groups that fought U.S. troops after the 2003 invasion.

"KH has a strong linkage with Iran's Quds Force and has repeatedly received lethal aid and other support from Iran that it has used to attack OIR coalition forces," Hoffman said, calling on the group to cease its attacks or face further strikes.

U.S. officials began warning of heightened threat indications from Iran and its proxies last summer as tensions between Washington and Tehran mounted. The threatened escalation followed harsh sanctions the Trump administration imposed after backing out of an Obama-era nuclear deal with the hardline Iranian regime.

Since then, the two sides have downed each other's drones and traded blame over a series of attacks in the region.

An Iraqi general told The Associated Press on Sunday that security had been beefed up

around the sprawling al-Asad Air Base that hosts U.S. troops in the western Anbar desert following a series of such rocket attacks throughout Iraq, including one on that base earlier this month. The attacks remain under investigation, Maj. Gen. Raad Mahmoud told the AP.

The U.S. strikes hit three sites in Iraq and two in Syria, Hoffman said.

Local media reported strikes were conducted near the Iraq-Syria border, including on a Kata'ib head-quarters in al-Qaim. Five people were reportedly killed and several others wounded, early reports state.

Meanwhile, U.S.-backed Iraqi security forces launched their latest large-scale operation to hunt down ISIS insurgents at dawn Sunday — the eighth iteration of a campaign dubbed "Will of Victory," focused on lasting defeat of the terrorist group.

"These operations aim to search and clear areas, villages and open spaces, to track and arrest wanted persons, dry up the remnants of terrorism and maintain stability and security," Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Rashid Yara-

lah, the Iraqi army's deputy commander of operations, said in a statement posted to Facebook.

Thousands of ISIS fighters and loyalists also remain active in Iraq as part of sleeper cells in towns and villages or hide in expansive western deserts or rugged northern mountain ranges, U.S. officials with OIR said late last week.

Since the loss of its territorial control — in Iraq in December 2017 and in Syria in March 2019 — ISIS has turned to insurgent tactics, carrying out assassinations, ambushes and roadside bombings against security forces and civilians.

The latest operation spans parts of Anbar, Ninevah, Salahuddin, Kirkuk and Diyala provinces, Yaraallah said. It's supported by Iraqi and coalition aircraft, local militias and other security and intelligence agencies, he said.

Throughout the day, Iraq's security media cell posted updates to Facebook, touting the discovery of tunnels used by the terrorists near Kirkuk, four "terrorist nests" with supplies in Salahuddin, and a weapons cache in Diyala with eight rocket launchers,

750 rounds of heavy machine-gun ammunition and other weapons.

Also in Salahuddin, five militants were killed inside a tunnel, and as the rubble was being removed a suicide bomber detonated himself, injuring four Iraqi troops, the media cell said.

U.S. forces continue to assist their Iraqi counterparts battling ISIS, but U.S. offensive strikes are rare and must meet stringent requirements, said Capt. Brad Bynum, an operations officer at Qayara Airfield West, where Americans staff an operations center that supports government forces with intelligence, reconnaissance and defensive airstrikes.

U.S. troops are in the country at the request of the Iraqi government "to ensure the lasting defeat of ISIS and provide advice and assistance" to security forces there, and they support an independent Iraq, Hoffman said.

"The U.S., however, will not be deterred from exercising its right of self-defense," he said.

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## Iraqi Shiites revolt against the government they helped build

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM  
AND MUSTAFA SALIM  
The Washington Post

NAJAF, Iraq — For weeks, Iraq's Shiite heartland has turned against the central government in open revolt against a system it helped sustain — going from reliable backers of Baghdad's ruling elite to a potentially powerful voice of opposition.

Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority has been the backbone for Baghdad's leadership since the U.S. invasion toppled Saddam Hussein and opened the way for Shiite political power.

The mostly Shiite provinces, which stretch across southern Iraq, voted Shiite politicians into power, stood behind leaders when they faced a Sunni-led insurgency and sent thousands of men to battle Islamic State.

But now Iraqi Shiites, fed up with poverty, angered by corruption and frustrated by their sacrifices, are battling the system they helped build.

Anti-government demonstrators have seized squares and bridges, blocked roads and burned or ransacked government buildings including diplomatic missions belonging to Shiite power broker Iran, which has close ties to Iraq's leadership.

In the southern cities of Najaf and Nasiriyah, security forces killed scores of demonstrators in a single day last month — part of the unrest that has claimed more than 500 lives since October and forced the prime minister to resign.

It's a show of anger that, if



A protester walks past a poster with defaced pictures of Iraqi politicians and Arabic that reads "wanted by the Iraqi people for inciting against the demonstrators and for defacing the revolution's image" in Tahrir square, Baghdad, on Saturday. Shiites in Iraq have turned against Baghdad's political elite after spending years backing the system.

maintained, could upend a system in place since the U.S. invasion in 2003 and possibly remake the political future of Iraq, whose minority Sunni Arabs and Kurds have been largely left on the sidelines.

"For 16 years, these Shiite parties have been in power and they haven't provided us with anything," said Hasanain al-Khasbi, 30, an activist from Basra, Iraq's southern oil hub.

Demonstrators have called for everything from a rewrite of the election law to abolishing political parties and eradicating cor-

ruption. The movement's chief slogan — "We want a homeland!" — has underscored their deep sense of alienation.

But the Iraqi state is lashing back with a show of force of its own.

Iraq's Supreme Human Rights Commission says more than 500 people have died in the clashes. In recent weeks, at least a half-dozen activists have been targeted for assassination by masked gunmen and in crude bomb attacks in the capital, Baghdad, and other cities in the south.

The protests have been fueled

by an overriding refrain: Money, influence and opportunity remain in the hands of a select few.

Protesters say that Iran-backed political officials and commanders, including the Shiite militias that fought ISIS, have grown rich off the power-sharing scheme that underpins Iraq's political order and divides government spoils among ruling parties.

The pact treats government ministries like fiefdoms, they say, while doing little for ordinary Iraqis.

"This is why we are protesting against the same Shiite parties

we voted for," said the Basra activist Khasbi. "It's because they are thieves."

Across Iraq's southern provinces — from the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala to the impoverished marshlands in Dhi Qar and Maysan, which borders Iran — students, residents, clerics, tribal leaders and even local officials conveyed similar sentiments of betrayal and dismay.

After the U.S. invasion, Iraqi Shiites who had been repressed under Hussein's regime emerged to build a new state. They claimed legitimacy through elections and mobilized under threats from Sunni insurgents at the urging of their spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

But as public anger simmered through the years, over woes from power cuts to joblessness to corruption and clean water, political leaders in Baghdad often ignored the region's plight — even as they counted on the Shiite provinces for backing.

"The south has sacrificed a lot — first under Saddam Hussein, then al-Qaida, then the Islamic State," Nassif Jassim al-Khatabi, the provincial governor of Karbala, said in an interview at his office.

Al-Khatabi and his city, about 70 miles south of Baghdad, have outside influence in shaping Shiite views. Karbala is home to the shrine of Imam Hussein, one of the most revered figures in Shiite Islam.

"But now they have reached a point where they are saying, 'How long will we have to sacrifice while the government neglects us?'" Khatabi said.



## MILITARY

# N. Korea holds meeting ahead of deadline for US

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has opened a high-profile political conference to discuss how to overcome "harsh trials and difficulties," state media reported Sunday, days before a year-end deadline set by Pyongyang for Washington to make concessions in nuclear negotiations.

The ruling Workers' Party meeting is a focus of keen attention as some observers predict North Korea might use the conference to announce it would abandon faltering diplomacy with the U.S. and lift its moratorium on major weapons test.

The Korean Central News Agency reported that leader Kim Jong Un presided over a plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee convened in Pyongyang on Saturday.

It called the gathering the "first-day session," suggesting it would continue for at least another day.

The meeting is intended to "overcome the manifold and harsh trials and difficulties and further accelerate the development of the revolution with transparent anti-imperialist independent stand and firm will," KCNA said.

The meeting will also discuss "important matters" in the party and national defense, KCNA said. KCNA said Kim made a speech on overall state affairs and the work of the Central Committee, but gave no further details.

In April 2018, at the start of nuclear talks with the U.S., North Korea held the same Workers' Party meeting and announced it would suspend nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and shift its national focus to developing the economy.



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

**North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gestures while speaking during a Workers' Party meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Saturday. North Korea opened a key meeting ahead of a year-end deadline for Washington to make concessions in nuclear negotiations.**

After his second summit with President Donald Trump in February in Vietnam failed, Kim gave the U.S. until the end of this year to offer new initiatives to salvage the nuclear negotiations. North Korea has recently warned that its resumption of tests of long-range missiles and nuclear devices depends on U.S. action.

Restarting nuclear and ICBM tests would be a blow to Trump, who has boasted that North Korea's moratorium was a major foreign policy win.

But that would also likely completely derail diplomacy with the U.S. and further dim the prospect for North Korea to get badly needed sanctions relief to rebuild

its troubled economy, some experts said.

North Korea is pushing to win major sanctions relief in return for limited denuclearization steps, but the U.S. maintains sanctions will stay in place until North Korea takes significant steps toward ridding itself of nuclear weapons and technology.

## False alarms sound amid expected 'gift' from N. Korea

By SETH ROBSON  
AND MATTHEW KEELER  
Stars and Stripes

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un did not deliver on his promise of a Christmas gift to President Donald Trump but U.S. troops and a Japanese broadcaster were ready if he did.

Two false alarms sounded Thursday night and Friday morning hundreds of miles and hours apart in South Korea and Japan, both erroneously signaling alerts of a possible North Korean attack.

The first, around 10 p.m. Thursday, oc-

curred when an alarm sounded at Camp Casey, a U.S. military base just south of the Demilitarized Zone. An unofficial Twitter account, U.S. Army WTF? Moments, called it a "Go to War" signal.

Lt. Col. Martyn Crighton, a 2nd Infantry Division spokesman, said Friday the alert siren was sounded inadvertently instead of taps.

"It was human error that caused the mistake," he said. "When the operator realized that he pushed the wrong button, they notified all the units on Camp Casey that it was a false alarm."

Since units on the base were immediately notified that the siren was a false alarm, it did not interfere with any operations, Crighton said.

Then, at 12:22 a.m. Friday, Japanese state broadcaster NHK erroneously reported that a North Korean missile had landed in the sea near the northern island of Hokkaido.

A few minutes later the broadcaster issued a correction, stating that the report was a training test.

At around 6:22 a.m. on the 27th, [NHK] erroneously reported on the Internet that

the missile in North Korea was estimated to have fallen to the sea about 2,000 km east of Cape Erimo, Hokkaido," the broadcaster said in its correction.

NHK reported no further fallout from the erroneous message.

Some experts believe Kim may resume testing intercontinental ballistic missiles unless sanctions imposed on the North to hinder its nuclear weapons program are lifted by year's end.

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## NDAA expands eligibility to receive full military honors at Arlington

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

Former prisoners of war and enlisted Medal of Honor recipients are now eligible for burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, according to a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act signed recently by President Donald Trump.

The bill's passage capped a 20-month odyssey for Kanda Fletcher, whose father, former Korean War POW and Army Pfc. Robert Fletcher, was buried there but denied those honors after he died in February 2018.

Fletcher was so incensed that her father was not eligible for the same honors afforded some troops with no combat experience that starting in April 2018 she campaigned to extend them to men like her father. Her work was highlighted by Stars and Stripes, which caught the eye of several congressmen, resulting in a bill introduced in February by Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.).

"It's been a very emotional journey,"

Fletcher said last week after unveiling the news to her family on Christmas.

The provision for extended military honors was folded into the annual defense authorization act a year after Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Mich., introduced a bill to correct what he perceived as a slight. Bishop lost reelection in 2018 but Panetta reintroduced the bill and it made its way into the authorization act.

Trump signed the act Dec. 20.

"Full military honors ceremonies remind us of the service and valor demonstrated by those who have defended, protected, and sacrificed for freedom and democracy," Panetta said in a statement Dec. 23 to Stars and Stripes. "I am humbled and honored to include my bipartisan legislation into the National Defense Authorization Act."

Any former POW who served honorably and died on or after Nov. 30, 1993, can be buried at Arlington. Recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force Cross, the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal,

the Silver Star or the Purple Heart are also eligible for burial there.

In August 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs counted 5,017 former POWs living in the U.S. However, that number only includes POWs in the VA system.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society counts 71 living Medal of Honor recipients of many ranks, according to the society's website.

Kanda Fletcher said the family had to persuade her father to agree to burial at the nation's most hallowed veterans' cemetery. They were later stung when they found out that he would not be afforded the horse and caisson of full military honors at his June 2018 interment.

He instead received the minimum honors for eligible enlisted service members at the time, according to Army regulations: a casket team, a firing party, the playing of taps by a bugler and a chaplain.

"It still hurts very badly but I can't fix that," Kanda Fletcher said about the legislation coming too late for her father. "I could only move forward and try to ensure

that this didn't happen to too many other people."

Commissioned and warrant officers and senior noncommissioned officers who are eligible for burial at Arlington may also receive "full honors," which includes an additional escort, a marching element, a band and the horse-drawn caisson.

Robert Fletcher was a Buffalo Soldier who endured starvation, freezing temperatures and physical and psychological torture during his three years of captivity, first at the hands of the Chinese and later with the North Koreans.

Out of 8,000 prisoners taken with him, he would later tell documentary filmmaker James Miltner in 2013, only 3,000 came back alive.

"A lot of guys froze to death; a lot of guys starved to death; a lot of guys died from wounds," Fletcher recalled in the film. "I was 180 pounds and I went down to about 90 pounds ... I don't know why I survived."

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Taliban: Key part of agreement is intra-Afghan negotiations

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Talks were suspended in September when both sides seemed on the verge of signing a peace pact. However, a surge in violence in the capital, Kabul, killed a U.S. soldier, prompting President Donald Trump to declare the deal "dead." Talks resumed after Trump made a surprise visit to Afghanistan at the end of November announcing the Taliban were ready to talk and agree to a reduction in violence.

Khalilzad returned to Doha at the beginning of December. It was then that he proposed a temporary halt to hostilities to pave the way to an agreement being signed, according to Taliban officials.

Taliban officials familiar with the negotiations spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media outlets.

A key pillar of the agreement, which the U.S. and Taliban have been hammering for more than a year, is direct negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the

conflict.

Those intra-Afghan talks were expected to be held within two weeks of the signing of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal. They will decide what a post-war Afghanistan will look like.

The first item on the agenda is expected to address how to implement a cease-fire between the Taliban and Afghanistan's National Security Forces. The negotiations, however, were expected to be prickly and will cover a variety of thorny issues, including rights of women, free speech, and changes to the country's constitution.

The intra-Afghan talks would also lay out the fate of tens of thousands of Taliban fighters and the heavily armed militias belonging to Afghanistan's warlords.

Those warlords have amassed wealth and power since the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 by the U.S.-led coalition. They were removed after Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida carried off the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The Taliban had har-

bored bin Laden, although there was no indication they were aware of al-Qaida's plans to attack the United States.

Even as the Taliban were talking about ceasing hostilities, insurgents carried out an attack in northern Afghanistan on Sunday that killed at least 17 local militiamen.

The attack apparently targeted a local militia commander who escaped unharmed, said Jawad Hajri, a spokesman for the governor of Takhar province, where the attack took place late Saturday.

Local Afghan militias commonly operate in remote areas, and are under the command of either the defense or interior ministries.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack.

Last week, a U.S. soldier was killed in combat in the northern Kunduz province. The Taliban claimed they were behind a fatal roadside bombing that targeted American and Afghan forces in Kunduz. The U.S. military said the soldier was not

killed in an IED attack but died seizing a Taliban weapons cache.

The U.S. military in its daily report of military activity said airstrikes over night Sunday killed 13 Taliban in attacks throughout the country.

Taliban as well as Afghan National Security Forces aided by U.S. air power have carried out daily attacks against each other.

The Taliban frequently target Afghan and U.S. forces, as well as government officials. But scores of Afghan civilians are also killed in the cross-fire or by roadside bombs planted by militants. The United Nations has called on all sides in the conflict to reduce civilian casualties. The world body said increased U.S. airstrikes and ground operations by Afghan National Security Forces, as well as relentless Taliban attacks, have contributed to an increase in civilian casualties.

Last year, Afghanistan was the world's deadliest conflict.

# Turkey says it won't evacuate NW Syria observation posts

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's defense chief said Sunday that his country's troops won't evacuate their 12 observation posts in rebel-held northwestern Syria. That's even as a Syrian government offensive pushed deeper into Idlib province, the last remaining opposition stronghold.

Turkey — a strong backer of some of the rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces — has a dozen observation posts in Idlib province as part of an agreement reached last year with Russia, a main supporter of Assad.

Last week, Syrian troops surrounded a Turkish observation post outside the village of Surman, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor.

"We will in no way evacuate or abandon the 12 observation points where our soldiers are heroically and with devotion fulfilling their duties to ensure a cease-fire," said Turkey's Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, as quoted by the state-run Anadolu Agency. "We will continue to remain there."

Akar also called on Russia to use its influence to stop the Syrian government offensive. He spoke while inspecting troops near Turkey's border with Syria.

After weeks of intense bombardment, Syrian government forces launched a ground offensive into the southern and eastern parts of Idlib province this month, forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes. The attacks resumed after a cease-fire in place since the end of August collapsed.

Relations between Turkey and Syria have deteriorated sharply since the conflict in Syria began in 2011. Damascus accuses Ankara of undermining its security by allowing thousands of foreign fighters to cross the border into Syria.

Idlib province, which is dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants, is home to 3 million civilians. Many were already displaced by



LEFTERIS PITIRAKIS/AP

**People demonstrate against the air and ground bombardment by Syrian government forces in southern and eastern Idlib province, the last rebel-held bastion in the country, during a rally in Istanbul on Saturday.**

previous rounds of violence.

The United Nations has warned of the growing risk of a humanitarian catastrophe along the Turkish border. Many displaced civilians have apparently moved close to the border but have not entered Turkey.

Akar said that some 280,000 people fled their homes in Idlib in recent weeks as a result of the offensive. The U.N. humanitarian agency has put the number of displaced at more than 235,000 people between Dec. 12 and Dec. 25.

"If this pressure continues, it will create another important refugee influx. This additional burden will be too heavy for Turkey, which hosts around 4 million Syr-

ian brothers. Therefore, we are doing all we can to prevent this migration," Akar said.

The International Rescue Committee said Saturday that condi-

tions in the province were at a breaking point.

The Syrian Response Coordination Group, a relief group active in northwestern Syria, said 216,632 people have fled their homes, many of them with no specific place to go. Many have been heading toward the Turkish border for safety.

The group said people fled from about 250 villages and towns, adding that 252 civilians, including 79 children have been killed as a result of the violence.

Before the ground offensive began earlier this month, the U.N. reported that some 60,000 Idlib residents had already been displaced since the government's bombing campaign began late last month.

Videos posted online by activists and the opposition's Syrian Civil Defense, also known as White Helmets, showed long lines of cars, trucks and buses heading north. People carried their valuables, and on most buses, bags and mattresses were loaded.

The group called on other relief agencies to help the displaced amid cold weather and heavy rain. In recent weeks, tent settlements of displaced people were flooded adding to their misery.

"We call upon the international community to pressure the regime and its allies to stop their military campaign," it said.

Under the cover of airstrikes and heavy shelling, Syrian troops have been pushing toward a major rebel-held town, Maaret al-Numan. The town sits on a key

highway linking the capital, Damascus, with the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest.

The immediate goal of Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces appeared to be reopening the strategic highway, which has been closed by the rebels since 2012.

Idlib province is dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants. It's also home to 3 million civilians, and the United Nations has warned of the growing risk of a humanitarian catastrophe along the Turkish border.

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## NATION

# Hundreds of accused clergy left off abuse lists

By CLAUDIA LAUER  
AND MEGHAN HOYER  
Associated Press

Richard J. Poster served time for possessing child pornography, violated his probation by having contact with children, admitted masturbating in the bushes near a church school and in 2005 was put on a sex offender registry. And yet the former Catholic priest was only just this month added to a list of clergy members credibly accused of child sexual abuse — after The Associated Press asked why he was not included.

Victims advocates had long criticized the Roman Catholic Church for not making public the names of credibly accused priests. Now, despite the dioceses' release of nearly 5,300 names, most in the last two years, critics say the lists are far from complete.

An AP analysis found more than 900 clergy members accused of child sexual abuse who were missing from lists released by the dioceses and religious orders where they served.

The AP reached that number by matching the public diocese lists against a database of accused priests tracked by the group BishopAccountability.org and then scouring bankruptcy documents, lawsuits, settlement information, grand jury reports and media accounts.

More than a hundred of the former clergy members not listed by dioceses or religious orders had been charged with sexual crimes, including rape, solicitation and receiving or viewing child pornography.

On top of that, the AP found another nearly 400 priests and clergy members who were accused of abuse while serving in dioceses that have not yet released any names.

"No one should think, 'Oh, the bishops are releasing their lists, there's nothing left to do,'" said Terence McKiernan, co-founder of BishopAccountability.org, who has been tracking the abuse crisis and cataloging accused priests for almost two decades.

Church officials say that absent an admission of guilt, they have to weigh releasing a name against harming the reputation of priests who may have been falsely accused. By naming accused priests, they note, they also open themselves to lawsuits from those who maintain their innocence.

Some dioceses have excluded entire classes of clergy members from their lists — priests in religious orders, deceased priests who had only one allegation against them, priests ordained in foreign countries and, sometimes, deacons or seminarians ousted before they were ordained.

Others, like Poster, were excluded because of technicalities.

Poster's name was not included when the Davenport, Iowa, diocese issued its first list of two dozen credibly accused priests in 2008. The diocese said his crime of possessing more than 270 videos and images of child pornography on his work laptop was not originally a qualifying offense in the church's landmark charter on child abuse because there wasn't a direct victim.

Less than a year after he was released from prison, he admitting to masturbating in the bushes on church property, which abuts a Catholic high school. Still, the diocese did not list him. And he went on to violate the terms of his probation, admitting he had contact with minors.

Child pornography was added to the church's child abuse charter in 2011 and, though the diocese promised it would update its list of perpetrators as required under a court-approved bankruptcy plan, it never included Poster.



RICHARD DREW/AP

Attorney Jeff Anderson, left, points to a chart of sexual abuse perpetrators during an Aug. 14 news conference in New York, accompanied by sexual abuse victims Birdie Farrell, center, and Joseph Carannano. When he was a teenager, Carannano had been hospitalized for an anxiety disorder and part of his return to high school involved mandated meetings with a priest who controlled his medication. It was during those sessions that he said Monsignor John Paddock fondled him.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Joey Covino is shown Dec. 18 at his home in Saugus, Mass., with a photo of himself as a 9-year-old boy. Covino was abused by Rev. Richard J. McCormick at a summer camp in Massachusetts in 1981.

"It was an oversight," the diocese spokesman Deacon David Montgomery told the AP. He said the public had been kept informed about the case through press releases issued from Poster's arrest until his removal from the priesthood in 2007.

Poster, who now lives in Silver Spring, Md., declined to comment when reached by the AP.

Of the 900 unlisted accused clergy members, more than a tenth had been charged with a sex-related crime — a far higher percentage than those named publicly by dioceses and orders, the AP found.

Dioceses varied widely in what they considered a credible accusation. Like Poster, some of the priests criminally charged with child pornography weren't listed because some dioceses said a victim needed to report a complaint.

Other dioceses created exceptions for a host of other reasons, ranging from cases being deemed not credible by a board of lay church people to the clergy members in question having since died and thus being unable to defend themselves.

"If your goal is protecting kids and healing victims, your lists will be as broad and

detailed as possible. If your goal is protecting your reputation and institution, it will be narrow and vague. And that's the choice most bishops are making," said David Chloessy, the former executive director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, who now heads the group's St. Louis chapter.

The largest exceptions were made for the nearly 400 priests in religious orders who, while they serve in diocesan schools and parishes, don't report to the bishops.

Richard J. McCormick, a Salesian priest who worked at parishes, schools and religious camps in dioceses in Florida, New York, Massachusetts, Indiana and Louisiana, has been accused of molesting or having inappropriate contact with children from three states. In 2009, his order settled the first three civil claims against him. Yet he does not appear on any list of credibly accused clergy members.

McCormick finally faced criminal charges after one of his victims spotted the priest's name on a very different list — one posted in 2011 by a Boston lawyer who represents church sexual abuse victims.

Thirty years had gone by, but Joey Covino said he immediately recognized a photo of McCormick as the priest who had molested him for over two summers at a Salesian camp for underprivileged boys in Ipswich, Mass.

When he and his brothers returned to the camp for a second year, "I was petrified — petrified — and I couldn't say anything," said Covino, now 49 and a police officer in Revere, Mass.

"I've always told myself I should have done something. I should have fought back."

His decision to come forward led to McCormick being convicted of rape in 2014 and sentenced to up to 10 years. The priest since has pleaded guilty to assaulting another boy.

The Salesians, based in New Rochelle, N.Y., have never posted a list of credibly accused priests.

"Our men who have been credibly accused and have had accusations have been listed in the various dioceses that we serve," said Father Steve Ryan, vice provincial of the order. Ryan said he was certain McCormick's name appeared on several lists, including Boston's.

But when Boston posted its list in 2011, Archbishop Sean Patrick O'Malley wrote that he was not including priests from religious orders or visiting clerics because the diocese "does not determine the outcome in such cases; that is the responsibility of the priest's order or diocese."

O'Malley since has called on religious orders to post their own lists, spokesman Terry Donilon said.

The AP found the Boston archdiocese has the most accused priests left off its list, with almost 80 not included. Nearly three-quarters, like McCormick, were priests from religious orders.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro told the AP that he had to fight church leaders to release a groundbreaking 2018 grand jury report that named more than 300 predator priests and cataloged clergy abuse over seven decades in six of the state's dioceses.

Several bishops played a direct role in covering up the abuse in Pennsylvania, Shapiro said.

"You can't put much stock in the lists that the church voluntarily provides because they cannot be trusted to police themselves," he said.

**"No one should think, 'Oh, the bishops are releasing their lists, there's nothing left to do.'"**

Terence McKiernan  
co-founder of BishopAccountability.org



## NATION



MK3 FOREST HERRING, U.S. COAST GUARD/AP

Coast Guard Cutter William Hart moves toward the Hawaiian island of Kauai on Friday, the day after a tour helicopter disappeared with seven people aboard. Officials say the helicopter crashed, killing seven.

## Hawaii helicopter tours scrutinized after fatal crash

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Tour helicopter operations in Hawaii have come under increased scrutiny after a deadly crash last week, one of several recent accidents in the state, with a congressman calling the trips unsafe and lacking proper oversight.

There were no survivors of a Thursday tour helicopter crash that killed three minors and four adults, officials confirmed Saturday.

The helicopter that was set to tour the rugged Na Pali Coast, the picturesque and remote northern shoreline of Kauai that was featured in the film "Jurassic Park," crashed on a mountaintop Thursday.

The remains of six people were recovered Friday and the seventh is still missing. Kauai police confirmed there were no survivors based in part on the nature of the crash and impact damage,

officials said in a statement. Recovery efforts were suspended Saturday afternoon.

There were six people from two different families and a pilot on the flight.

U.S. Rep. Ed Case, of Hawaii, cited fatal accidents over the years, blaming the Federal Aviation Administration for not taking National Transportation Safety Board safety improvement efforts seriously and the industry for not regulating itself.

"Tour helicopter and small aircraft operations are not safe, and innocent lives are paying the price," said Case, a Democrat.

The FAA, however, said it conducts regular surveillance on all Hawaii air tour operators and ensures companies address any issues, agency spokesman Ian Gregor said in an email. He said the FAA does not have concerns about the industry statewide.

Police on Kauai have prelimi-

nary identifications for three of the seven people aboard Thursday's helicopter tour that crashed in a remote part of Hawaii.

In a statement Saturday, police said the flight manifest listed the pilot as Paul Matero, 69, of Wailua, Hawaii. Two passengers were named as Amy Gannon, 47, and Jocelyn Gannon, 13, of Wisconsin.

The four other passengers, including two girls who were 10 and 13 years old, are believed to be from Switzerland, police said, but their identities have not yet been released.

Autopsies are pending.

The helicopter company, identified as Safari Helicopters, contacted the Coast Guard on Thursday evening after the tour did not return to the airport as scheduled. A search began but steep terrain, low visibility, choppy seas and rain complicated the search.

## Suspect held in stabbing of 5 at rabbi's home

By RYAN TARINELLI  
Associated Press

MONSEY, N.Y. — A man stabbed and wounded five people as they gathered at a rabbi's home north of New York City to celebrate Hanukkah, an attack that the governor said Sunday was fueled by intolerance and evidence of a "cancer" in American politics.

A suspect is in custody at the Ramapo Police headquarters and will face five counts of attempted murder and one count of burglary, according to Police Chief Brad Weidel. Police identified him as Grafton E. Thomas, 37, of Greenwood Lake, N.Y.

The Saturday night stabbings north of New York City on the seventh night of Hanukkah come on the heels of a string of attacks targeting Jews in the region, including a massacre at a kosher grocery store in New Jersey earlier this month. The rabbi's home is in Monsey, a town not far from the New Jersey state line and one of several in the Hudson Valley that has seen an influx of Hasidic Jews in recent years. The Rockland County town is about 35 miles north of New York City.

One person was very seriously wounded and remained in critical condition, Gov. Andrew Cuomo told reporters. The rabbi's son was also injured, the governor said. His status and that of the other victims were not clear.

Authorities have not provided a motive for the attack, but Cuomo said it was an example of larger problems.

"This is an intolerant time in our country," he said to reporters outside the rabbi's home on Sunday morning. "We see anger, we see hatred exploding.

"It is an American cancer on the body politic."

He said he thought the crime was an act of domestic terrorism.

Police said the stabbings happened around 10 p.m. A witness saw the suspect fleeing in a car and alerted police to a license plate number, Weidel, the police chief in Ramapo, which covers Monsey, said. That allowed police to find his vehicle as he entered New York City, where police apprehended him.

The Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council for the Hudson Valley region tweeted reports that the stabbings took place at the house of a Hasidic rabbi during a Hanukkah celebration.

The large home on Forshay Road remained cordoned off with yellow crime scene tape early Sunday.

According to public records, the home belongs to Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg, who leads the adjacent synagogue.

Aron Kohn told The New York Times he was inside the residence during the stabbings.

"I was praying for my life," said Kohn, 65. "He started attacking people right away as soon as he came in the door. We didn't have time to react at all."

Last week in New York City itself, police received at least six reports of attacks possibly motivated by anti-Jewish bias.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Friday that police presence would increase in Brooklyn neighborhoods home to large Jewish populations.

## Plane crash kills 5, including LSU coach's daughter-in-law, on way to the Peach Bowl

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A small plane en route to a college football playoff game crashed into a post office parking lot in Louisiana shortly after takeoff Saturday, killing five people, including a well-known sports reporter who was the daughter-in-law of one of the team's coaches.

The two-engine Piper Cherokee crashed in the city of Lafayette about a mile from the regional airport where the flight began, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Tony Molinaro said. Investigators from the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating, according to Molinaro and an NTSB statement on Twitter.

The plane was an eight-passen-

ger aircraft, said Lafayette Fire Chief Robert Benoit. Six people were on board the plane, five of whom were killed, he said. The sixth, a 37-year-old man, was being treated at an area hospital along with two people who were in the post office.

Steven Ensminger Jr., son of the offensive coordinator for the Louisiana State University football team, said his wife, Carley McCord, was on board the flight and died when it crashed. He said the plane was en route to the Peach Bowl playoff game in Atlanta between LSU and Oklahoma.

"I just don't feel like this is real," Ensminger told The Associated Press in an Instagram message.

Ensminger said he was unable to go to the game and was at

work when the crash happened. He said his father, Steven Ensminger, called him just before the elder Ensminger got to the stadium. The coach had tears in his eyes when he appeared on the field at the start of the game Saturday afternoon, and LSU players embraced him with hugs.

"He's the MVP right now," LSU head coach Ed Orgeron said in an on-air halftime interview. LSU won 62-28.

The Lafayette Fire Department identified the other people who were killed as Ian E. Biggs, 51, the plane's pilot; Robert Vaughn Crisp II, 59; Gretchen D. Vincent, 51; and Michael Walker Vincent, 15. The injured passenger, Stephen Wade Berzas, was in critical condition, said department spokesman Alton Trahan.

## At least 2 reported dead in shooting at Texas church

Associated Press

WHITE SETTLEMENT, Texas — Two people were killed in a shooting at a church near Fort Worth, Texas, on Sunday morning and a third person has been taken to a hospital, first responders said.

MedStar Mobile Healthcare spokeswoman Macara Trusty told the Associated Press that one person died at the West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement and the other died en route

to the hospital.

A third person is being treated at a hospital and all of the victims are male, she said.

MedStar is an ambulance service.

Trusty said she has been told by a supervisor at the scene that one of the people who died was the shooter.

White Settlement police have not responded to an AP request for details.

White Settlement is about 8 miles west of Fort Worth.

## NATION

# Trump retweets, then deletes name of whistleblower

By COLBY ITRKOWITZ  
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump retweeted a post naming the alleged whistleblower who filed the complaint that became the catalyst for the congressional inquiry that resulted in his impeachment by the House of Representatives.

On Friday night, Trump shared a Twitter post from @surferrmom77, who describes herself as a "100% Trump supporter," with his 68 million followers. That tweet prominently named the alleged whistleblower and suggested that he had committed perjury.

By Saturday morning, the post did not appear on Trump's timeline, though it was visible to certain users and via direct link. On Saturday evening, Twitter acknowledged that a technical glitch made Trump's retweet appear visible to some users but not others.

"Due to an outage with one of our systems, tweets on account profiles were visible to some, but not others," Twitter said in a statement. "We're still working on fixing this and apologize for any confusion."

Twitter said the discrepancy — with the tweet appearing for some and not others — was the result of a system error that affected tweets from millions of users, including the president.

For months, Trump has threatened to disclose the identity of the whistleblower, complaining that he should be able to face his accuser. In the past few days, he has inched closer to doing so. On Thursday night, the president retweeted a link to a Washington Examiner story that used the name.

The alleged whistleblower has also been named in other conservative media, including Breitbart News. He was named by a contributor on Fox News, and Donald Trump Jr. has tweeted the name.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

The whistleblower's identity has been kept secret because of whistleblower protection laws, which exist to shield those who come forward with allegations of wrongdoing by the government. Whistleblower advocates say this anonymity is important because it protects those who speak up from retaliation and encourages others to come forward.

The Washington Post has chosen not to publish the name. Vice President for Communications Chris Coratti said The Post "has long respected the right of whistleblowers to report wrongdoing in confidence, which protects them against retaliation. We also withhold identities or other facts when we believe that publication would put an individual at

risk. Both of those considerations apply in this case."

Trump and his allies claim the law does not forbid disclosing the identity of the whistleblower. Federal laws offer only limited protection for those in the intelligence community who report wrongdoing, and those in the intelligence community have even fewer protections than their counterparts in other agencies.

The 1998 Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act did not detail any protections for whistleblowers from retaliation — instead merely describing the process to make a complaint.

Whistleblower attorney Bradley Moss told The Post in September that the law does not apply to members of Congress who might disclose the whistleblower's name.

"This is all very, very fragile, and a lot of the protections that we understand to exist are based more on courtesy and custom than anything written down in law," Moss said.

Moss is the law partner of Mark Zaid, one of the whistleblower's attorneys, though he has had no involvement in that case.

The whistleblower, who works for the CIA, filed an official complaint that, among other concerns, pointed to a July 25 phone conversation in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate former vice president Joe Biden, a Democratic presidential candidate.

Congressional Republicans have demanded the whistleblower testify as part of the impeachment probe. Democrats have countered that such testimony is unnecessary because other witnesses have corroborated and expanded on the original complaint, which was based on secondhand information.

The president has repeatedly disparaged the whistleblower, though never by name, in tweets, interviews and rally speeches.

In early November, the whistleblower's attorney sent White House counsel Pat Cipollone a cease-and-desist letter, demanding the president stop denigrating the whistleblower.

"I am writing out of deep concern that your client, the President of the United States, is engaging in rhetoric and activity that places my client, the Intelligence Community Whistleblower, and their family in physical danger," wrote attorney Andrew Bakaj. "I am writing to respectfully request that you counsel your client on the legal and ethical peril in which he is placing himself should anyone be physically harmed as a result of his, or his surrogates', behavior."



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Julie and Pete Frates smile on the sideline at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., on Dec. 28, 2014. Pete Frates, who inspired the ALS ice bucket challenge, died on Dec. 9. Supporters took one last fundraising plunge Saturday to help cover Frates' medical bills.

## Supporters take final plunge to honor man who inspired ice bucket challenge

Associated Press

GLOUCESTER, Mass. — Supporters of Pete Frates took one last chilly plunge for the former college baseball player whose battle with Lou Gehrig's disease helped inspire the ALS ice bucket challenge.

The Frates family said Saturday's annual "Plunge for Pete" at Good Harbor Beach in Gloucester, Mass., would be their last.

The event, in its eighth year, raised money for the Pete Frates #3 Fund, which helped pay for Frates' medical bills.

The former Boston College baseball player, who lived in Beverly, a suburb north of Boston, died Dec. 9 after a seven-year battle with ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He would have turned 35 on Saturday.

John Frates, Pete's father, said

the event has come "full circle" as the first one was also held on his son's birthday.

"It's aligning perfectly for this one to be the last," he told The Gloucester Daily Times last week.

John Frates said the family has accumulated roughly \$500,000 in debt for their son's medical care and they hope the final fundraiser will help close the gap.

The family will continue to raise money for the separate Peter Frates Family Foundation that helps other ALS patients cover home health care costs, he said.

Pete Frates' wife, Julie, said she was participating in the plunge for the first time.

She's raised nearly \$300,000 and promised to jump into the waters wearing "Pete's favorite red white and blue bikini that I

wore when we met on the Fourth of July, eight years ago," according to her Facebook fundraising page.

Organizers say nearly 300 people signed up to take the plunge. That exceeded the peak of 250 participants the event saw in 2014, the year the ice bucket challenge went viral and raised more than \$200 million for ALS research worldwide, they say.

The ice bucket challenge involved pouring a bucket of ice water over your head and posting a video of it on social media and then challenging others to do the same or make a donation to charity. Most people did both.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that leads to paralysis due to the death of motor neurons in the spinal cord and brain. There is no known cure.

## NASA astronaut breaks the record for longest single spaceflight by a woman

dpa

NEW YORK — U.S. astronaut Christina Koch on Saturday broke the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, having spent 289 days in space, according to NASA.

Having arrived on the International Space Station on March 15, Koch eclipsed the record of 288 days set by retired astronaut Peggy Whitson.

NASA congratulated Koch for "reaching new heights" in a tweet.

"It's a wonderful thing for science," Koch told news outlet CNN from aboard the ISS. "We see another aspect of how the human body is affected by microgravity for the long term, and that's really important for our future

**'It's a wonderful thing for science. ... [It's] really important for our future spaceflight plan going forward to the moon and to Mars.'**

Christina Koch  
U.S. astronaut

spaceflight plan going forward to the moon and to Mars."

By the time she returns to Earth in February, her time in space will stand at 328 days, just 12 days shy of retired astronaut Scott Kelly's U.S. single spaceflight record, set in 2016.

Most ISS missions last only around six months.

In October, Koch broke another record by conducting the first all-female spacewalk outside of the ISS alongside astronaut Jessica Meir.

While onboard the 2-decade-old ISS, Koch participates in scientific research, station maintenance, outreach, visiting vehicle operations and spacewalks, according to NASA's website.



## NATION

# Music video 'ambush' leaves 2 dead in Texas

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Two men were killed and seven others were wounded by gunfire when a group filming a rap music video was "ambushed" near Houston, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said Saturday morning that Gonzalo Gonzalez, 20, and Jonathan Jimenez, 22, died at the scene Friday night.

The sheriff's office said the seven injured were taken to hospitals and ranged in age from 17 to 23.

The sheriff's office said Saturday that they did not know a motive or have any suspects.

"We don't know if there was a beef going on or what exactly happened," Gonzalez said at a news conference just after the shooting.

"We know it was a rap video that was being filmed out here but beyond that we don't know who the performers or who was involved in it, just that there was

a large group out there," he said.

The sheriff said authorities received a call about a drive-by shooting around 9:30 p.m. Officers responded to what Gonzalez characterized as a residential neighborhood just north of Houston, where a group of males had been making the video in an office parking lot.

The shooting scene stretched several blocks, the sheriff said.

"There were other vehicles that were staged there and they were filming some type of music video when, all of a sudden, basically they were ambushed, we believe by individuals in cars and/or foot that fired shots into the parking lot area," Gonzalez said at the news conference.

He said the shooting "unfolded very quickly" and it was unclear how many people opened fire.

"A lot of shots were fired," he said.

The sheriff said Friday night that figuring out who was at the scene will be part of the investigation, and he asked for witnesses to come forward.



MELISSA PHILLIP, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Police crime scene tape is strung in a parking lot after a deadly shooting in Houston on Saturday.

## Man who built crosses for shooting victims retires, citing burnout

BY JOSEPH WILKINSON

New York Daily News

He's been a beacon of light, but now he's passing the torch.

Greg Zanis has delivered more than 27,000 crosses, Stars of David and crescent moons across the country to honor victims of tragedies, mostly mass shootings, but has now decided to hang up his tools, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Zanis, 69, of Aurora, Ill., told the Tribune that he's simply seen too much and been away from his family too often to keep up the work.

Zanis, a religious man who built the tributes as part of his Crosses for Losses ministry, has tasked Lutheran Church Charities with filling his role, CNN reported. The group has 135 outlets in 26 different states, and Zanis plans to help them transition to taking over his work.

Since 1996, Zanis has been making, building and delivering

the crosses himself. He made the first one after his father-in-law was murdered, according to CNN.

He was at Columbine in Colorado in 1999; Sandy Hook, Conn., in 2012; Orlando, Fla., in 2016; Las Vegas in 2017; Parkland, Fla., in 2018; and numerous other tragedies. Zanis made sure each tribute matched the victim's religious affiliation, memorializing Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists and others.

He hit a breaking point after the mass shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, last August.

"I hadn't slept for two days, it was 106 degrees and I collapsed from the pressure when I heard there were two more victims," Zanis told the Tribune.

After three people were killed and eight others injured at a shooting in Pensacola, Fla., Zanis made it only to Indianapolis before turning around, the Tribune reported. He couldn't do it anymore.



STACEY WESCOTT, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Greg Zanis stands outside his home in Aurora, Ill., with some of the crosses he made in 2016 to honor murder victims in Chicago that year. Zanis has decided to retire from making crosses for victims of mass shootings.

## Teen killed in NC mall parking lot shooting

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — A 13-year-old girl was killed in a shooting at a North Carolina mall parking lot and two other juveniles were hurt, police said.

Concord police responded to a call about a fight outside a Dave and Buster's at Concord Mills mall Saturday night, police said in a statement. Officers discovered there had been a shooting and that two boys had suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said in tweets that the 13-year-old girl died at the scene. Her name was not immediately released. It's unclear what led to the shooting.

Concord is a suburb of Charlotte. Police there previously said they had secured the mall's perimeter and stressed that it was not an active shooter situation; the statement didn't include information about any arrests.

## Arrest made in fatal shooting of 17-year-old at Colorado mall

Associated Press

DENVER — Authorities say police have arrested a suspect in a mall shooting that killed a 17-year-old boy in a Denver suburb.

The capture of Kanyll Xavier Garrette, 18, was announced the day after the Friday shooting inside a J.C. Penney store at the Town Center at Aurora mall. Garrette was

charged with first-degree murder, according to Aurora police.

The gunfire sent shoppers fleeing for safety and led police to order people to shelter in place until they determined there was no active shooter.

It's the second shooting this month at the mall, which is in the same city where a gunman opened fire in a movie theater in 2012, killing 12 people and injuring dozens

more.

Jail records say Garrette is scheduled to make his first court appearance Monday morning. It is not clear if he has an attorney representing him yet.

The coroner has yet to identify the boy who was killed.

Authorities say officers patrolling the mall responded to reports of gunfire inside the store and found him wounded. He died

at a hospital.

A witness, Jalen Martin, told The Denver Post that he was walking in the mall when he heard a noise and saw people running.

"A few of the people who were in the cluster said, 'He's shooting; he's got a gun,'" Martin said.

He sprinted down an escalator and out of the mall as people ran into stores searching for places to hide, he said.

## WORLD

# UN official: Past decade has seen human rights backlash

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The past decade has seen a backlash against human rights on every front, especially the rights of women and the LGBT communities, according to a top U.N. human rights official.

Andrew Gilmour, the outgoing assistant secretary-general for human rights, said the regression of the past 10 years hasn't equaled the advances that began in the late 1970s — but it is serious, widespread and regrettable.

He pointed to "populist authoritarian nationalists" in North America, South America, Europe and Asia who he said are taking aim at the most vulnerable groups of society, including Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, Roma, and Mexican immigrants, as well as gays and women. He cited leaders who justify torture, the arrests and killing of journalists, the brutal repressions of demonstrations

and "a whole closing of civil society space."

"I never thought that we would start hearing the terms 'concentration camps' again," Gilmour told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview. "And yet, in two countries of the world there's a real question."

He didn't name them but appeared to be referring to China's internment camps in western Xinjiang province, where an estimated 1 million members of the country's predominantly Muslim Uighur minority are being held; and detention centers on the United States' southern border, where mostly Central American migrants are being held while waiting to apply for asylum. Both countries strongly deny that concentration camp conditions exist.

Gilmour is leaving the United Nations on Tuesday after a 30-year career that has included posts in hot spots such as Iraq, South Sudan, Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories and West

Africa. Before taking up his current post in 2016, he served for four years as director of political, peacekeeping, humanitarian and human rights affairs in former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's office.

Despite his dim view of the past decade, Gilmour — a Briton who previously worked in politics and journalism — said he didn't want to appear "relentlessly negative."

"The progress of human rights is certainly not a linear progression, and we have seen that," he said. "There was definite progression from the late '70s until the early years of this century. And we've now seen very much the counter-tendency of the last few years."

Gilmour said human rights were worse during the Cold War between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union, "but there wasn't a pushback as there is now."

The rights of women and gays are also at stake, Gilmour said. He said nationalist authoritarian



HARANDANE DICKO, UNITED NATIONS/AP

Andrew Gilmour, center, the U.N.'s assistant secretary-general for human rights, meets with Peul religious leaders from Mopiti to discuss human rights issues in 2017. Gilmour says the past decade has seen a backlash against human rights.

populist leaders such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have made "degradatory comments" about both groups.

He said the U.S. is "aggressively pushing" back against women's reproductive rights both at home and abroad. The result, he said, is that countries fearful of losing U.S. aid are cutting back their work on women's rights.

Gilmour said he was happy to

hear that the new U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Kelly Craft, feels strongly about ensuring human rights.

"And I do hope that she will be gently and firmly held to that high standard," he said.

Gilmour said that after his departure from the U.N., he will take a fellowship at Oxford's All Souls College, where he will focus on the importance of uniting human rights and environmental rights groups.

## Japan revises Fukushima cleanup plan

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan on Friday revised a road map for the cleanup of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, further delaying the removal of thousands of spent fuel units that remain in cooling pools since the 2011 disaster. It's a key step in the decades-long process, complicated by high radiation and other risks. The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., are keeping a 30- to 40-year completion target.

Here is a look at some of the challenges:

■ **More than 4,700 units of fuel in pools.** More than 4,700 units of fuel rods remain at the three melted reactors and two others that survived the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. They pose a high risk because their storage pools are uncovered and a loss of water in case of another major disaster could cause the fuel rods to melt, releasing massive radiation. Their removal at Units 1 and 2, after repeated delays, is now postponed by up to 10 years from the initial target of 2018, with more preparation needed to reduce radiation and clear debris and other risks.

■ **1.2 million tons of radioactive waste.** TEPCO has been unable to release the 1.2 million tons of treated but still radioactive waste kept in nearly 1,000 tanks at the plant, fearing public repercussions and the impact on the area's struggling fishing and agriculture industry. The amount of water is growing by 170 tons daily because it is used to cool the melted fuel inside the reactors.

■ **880 tons of melted fuel.** Removing an estimated 880 tons of molten fuel from Fukushima's three melted reactors is the toughest and unprecedented challenge. It's six times the amount dealt with in the aftermath of the 1979 Three Mile Island partial core melt in the United States.

Removal is to begin in 2021 at Unit 2, where robotic probes have made more progress than at Units



PAULO M. DIEZ/AP

"Contaminated, treated but still slightly radioactive, water" at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant is stored in about 900 huge tanks. Japan has revised a road map for the tsunami-wrecked nuclear plant cleanup.

1 and 3. A robotic arm was developed to enter the reactor from the side to reach the melted fuel, which has largely fallen to the bottom of the primary containment vessel.

■ **770,000 tons of radioactive waste.** Japan has yet to develop a plan to dispose of the highly radioactive melted fuel and other debris that come out of the reactors. TEPCO will compile a plan for those after the first decade of melted fuel removal. Managing the waste will require new technologies to reduce its volume and toxicity. TEPCO and the government say they plan to build a site to store waste and debris removed from the reactors, but finding one and obtaining public consent will be difficult.

■ **8 trillion yen.** The government says Fukushima's decommissioning cost is estimated at 8 trillion yen (\$73 billion), though adding compensation, decontamination of surrounding areas and medium-term storage facilities would bring the total to an estimated 22 trillion yen (\$200 billion).

■ **10,000 workers.** More than 10,000 workers will be needed annually in coming years, about one-third assigned to work related to the radioactive waste. Securing experienced workforce for the decades-long cleanup is a challenge in a country with a rapidly aging and declining population. Nuclear Regulation Authority Chairman Toyohiko Fuketa raised concerns about a possible labor shortage following recent minor mishaps at the plant.

## Thai SEAL dies of infection contracted during cave rescue

New York Daily News

A Thai Navy SEAL who took part in rescuing a soccer team from a flooded cave last year has died due to a blood infection he contracted during the operation.

Petty Officer Beirret Burearak's death last week was confirmed by the Royal Thai Navy on Friday, which noted his condition deteriorated despite treatment, according to Reuters. He battled the infection for about a year.

The rescue operation also resulted in the death of retired Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Saman Kunam.

At the time, local outlets re-

ported that the 38-year-old, who had just supplied oxygen tanks to a chamber in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex, did not have enough oxygen for himself and died heading out of the caves — which People reports are located near the borders of Laos and Myanmar.

The 12 boys from the Wild Boars Academy football team and their coach, Ekapol Chanthawong, 25, were stranded underground when the cave in Chiang Rai flooded on June 23, 2018. The boys were ages 11 to 16.

All 13 were saved, with the rescue effort coming to a close on July 10.

## Suspected N. Korean boat with several bodies found in Japan

Associated Press

TOKYO — A boat suspected of being from North Korea with several bodies was found on a small island in northern Japan, the Japanese Coast Guard said Sunday.

The wrecked boat that had the decomposing bodies was found on Sado Island in Niigata prefecture Friday and the bodies were found Saturday, a coast guard official in Sado said on customary condition of anonymity.

Found on the boats were three bodies with heads, two heads without bodies and two bodies without heads. It's officially counted as seven bodies because it is unclear

whether the bodies and heads came from the same people, the official said. The five bodies for which gender could be confirmed were all male, he said.

Other details were not immediately available, but Japanese media reports said an investigation had started on whether the boat was from North Korea, as Korean language items were found on the boat.

North Korean shipping boats are believed to be under pressure to catch more fish for the nation's food supply and are wandering farther out to sea. Sometimes North Koreans are found alive on such boats and have been deported.

## PACIFIC

## Japan's changing relationship with whales

By SIMON DENYER  
The Washington Post

ABASHIRI, Japan—Mitsuhiro Maeda spent 40 years hunting whales off northern Japan, as a navigator and spotter. Today, at 73, he still spends his days with binoculars—on a lookout post on a vessel, scanning the Sea of Okhotsk for telltale spouts.

But his boat has no harpoons. Instead, he takes tourists armed only with cameras and phones.

"I don't think Japanese people really know very much about whales," he said. "I want people to come with us and learn about all the different species."

In Japan, whale watching is steadily growing in popularity, while whale meat consumption is slowly falling in a nation with a long tradition of hunting whales.

The two industries coexist for now, but the trends point in only one direction, said Patrick Ramage, director of marine conservation at the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

"One has to look beyond the Western caricature of Japan as a nation just committed to killing whales," he said. "Whale watching is much smaller-scale than what you are seeing in New Zealand, Australia or here in the U.S., but there is a steady migration to this more sustainable and, we would argue, ultimately more economically beneficial use of whales."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose constituency includes the whaling city of Shimane, may be the most pro-whaling leader in Japan's modern history.

But in efforts to boost tourism—and spread its benefits outside the main centers of Tokyo and Kyoto—even Abe's government is promoting "eco-tourism using local resources such as bird-watching and whale watching."

Since the late 1980s, trips to watch humpback, sperm whales and orca have sprung up all around Japan. The number of people taking such trips more than doubled to nearly 234,000 in 2016, from 103,000 in 2008, according to IFAW data.



PHOTOS BY SALWAN GEORGES/The Washington Post

Men eat dinner in Tokyo at Taruichi, a traditional Japanese restaurant that focuses on whale dishes and sake.

There was plenty of enthusiasm on a whale-watching trip off northern Japan, but a mix of opinions about eating whale meat.

Akihito Koseki, 28, a doctor, expressed amazement at the power of a sperm whale as it flicked its huge fluke and dived into the ocean, but he said the experience wouldn't change his eating habits.

"There are those who protest against eating whale meat, but we eat horsemeat and still go riding on a horse," he said. "If I see whale meat on the menu, I'll probably order it."

Shingo Sakuta, 49, on a corporate trip with his construction company, said he had been think-

ing about the issue while on the whale-watching trip. He decided he'd be more hesitant to eat whale meat now.

He didn't really like it anyway. That view was shared by Takato Watanabe, 57. She said she would be even less inclined to eat whale meat after seeing the animals in the wild.

"Still, if someone cooks it for me, I'd eat it because it would be rude not to," she said.

That is how most people in Japan feel about whale meat—indifferent—aside from a general sense that Western criticism of the country's eating habits is hypocritical, given the cruelty involved in factory farming.

As Japan struggled to get back on its feet after World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, head of the Allied occupying forces, encouraged people to eat whales as a vital source of protein. By 1962, Japan's annual consumption of whale meat had grown to 233,000 metric tons, a quarter of its total meat consumption.

But as whales became scarcer, tastes changed, and a global moratorium on commercial whaling was imposed in 1986. Whale meat consumption in Japan plummeted to just 3,000 tons in 2018, or less than an ounce per person per year, according to Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Japan's pro-whaling lobby is still powerful, though. The country withdrew from the International Whaling Commission this year, ended its Antarctic whale hunt and resumed commercial



A dish of whale sashimi is shown at Taruichi.

whaling in the waters of its own exclusive economic zone.

Meat from nearby waters can be eaten fresh rather than frozen. That is a potential boon, the whaling industry predicts, in a country that takes the freshness of its food very seriously.

Government-backed whaling groups have staged promotional events around Japan and take part in food fairs and festivals, where visitors are invited to try whale meat or enjoy a cup of whale soup. A website has been set up to increase awareness of whale food culture, while a Norwegian company is even promoting a range of "modern" Mexican, Chinese and Italian recipes using whale meat.

Today, elderly Japanese people might have a sense of nostalgia about the fried whale meat they used to eat for their school lunches. But the younger generation eats very little whale meat, and the industry depends on govern-

ment subsidies to stay afloat.

Maeda, the former whale hunter, runs his whale watching trips out of Abashiri in Japan's far north, a city whose history is deeply bound up in whale hunting.

In the boom years of the 1950s, there were seven whaling companies in Abashiri. People would rush to the "whale beach" when they heard the distinctive steam whistle from a whaling boat coming home, ready for the huge job of processing the massive animals.

But as the price of whale meat dropped, the industry largely moved away.

Two small companies are still based here, and there is still some small-scale whaling in local waters. A fancy restaurant serves whale meat, and bloody cuts of Antarctic minke whale, left over from the hunt there, are on sale in a supermarket. The city offers whale meat in school lunches once a year.

But whaling feels incidental to a city more focused on other marine life in the rich waters of the Sea of Okhotsk, which sits between Japan and Russia. Government data shows revenue from whaling contributed just 0.1% of Abashiri's fisheries' production in 2017.

"We have a heritage of traditional whaling," said Abashiri's mayor, Yoichi Mizutani. "But Japanese people don't eat very much whale meat."

"It's hard to predict where whaling will go from here, but it may be hard to sustain commercial whaling without demand."



A sperm whale is spotted from the Evergreen whale-watching boat in the Sea of Okhotsk near Rausu, Japan, on Sept. 27.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Store staff thwarts bold attempt to steal coats

**MA** DANVERS — A group of thieves attempted to steal thousands of dollars worth of high-end Canada Goose jackets from a men's clothing store during a brazen, daylight heist that was thwarted by store employees and captured on surveillance video.

The Salem News reported a man and four women entered Giblees in Danvers around 11:30 a.m. Thursday and walked directly to the parkas near the back of the store. While one attempted to create a diversion, the others grabbed as many coats as they could and dashed for the door.

Employees attempted to block the door and tear the jackets away from the thieves, who dropped most of them as they jumped into a getaway car. Suspects were located a few hours later in Lynn, and an unknown number of jackets were recovered.

## Man in 'I Believe' hat steals from tip jar

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Police are looking for a thief who sported a hat that said "I Believe" as he swiped a tip jar stuffed with \$250 on Christmas Day.

Yalli Avitan said she at first thought an employee had moved the jar to empty it during the Christmas dinner rush at her family's Kosher takeout, the Judah Mediterranean Grill.

Surveillance video showed an unidentified man pretending to read a menu before walking out with the jar.

"When I realized what happened, I was hurt," Avitan told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "Especially on Christmas Day, when people are putting in hours that they could be spending with their families."

## Police dog treated for fentanyl exposure

**RI** SMITHFIELD — Smithfield Police said in a Facebook post that officers were executing a search warrant at a home on Dec. 20 when police dog Ajax began experiencing symptoms of fentanyl exposure.

A K-9 officer quickly administered the opioid overdose reversal drug Narcan and took Ajax to Ocean State Veterinary Specialists in East Greenwich.

Officials there gave the K-9 another dose of Narcan. Police said Ajax returned to work the next day.

The search was part of "Operation Mouse Trap," a monthlong investigation into drug trafficking in East Providence and Fall River, Mass.

## Fights at 3 malls lead to arrests, 1 closure

**CT** HARTFORD — Fights broke out in three malls Thursday, leading to arrests, minor injuries and at least one temporary closure.

The Connecticut Post Mall in Milford was ordered closed



ROBERT COHEN, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

## Presents for a pachyderm

**Raja destroys his tower of presents filled with popcorn, hay, pasta and other enrichments for his 27th birthday at the St. Louis Zoo on Friday. The occasion was Raja's "golden birthday," the day when one turns the age of their birth date. Hundreds of zoo visitors were on hand for the event.**

around 6 p.m. Thursday after several fights broke out among teens around the mall's food court and spread throughout the mall.

Police at the mall became overwhelmed and requested help from state police and other area agencies. No arrests or injuries were reported but the mall on Friday imposed temporary restrictions for youths.

At Westfarms Mall in West Hartford, police quelled a large fight among youths, also around 6 p.m. They charged one juvenile with interfering with an officer and disorderly conduct.

At the Westfield Trumbull Mall in Trumbull, police arrested seven people, including a 19-year-old man and six juveniles, after several fights broke out across the mall around 7 p.m. They were charged with breach of peace and disorderly conduct.

## Salt-loving goats are killed in traffic

**WY** JACKSON — Dozens of salt-loving mountain goats are coming down from the slopes of western Wyoming to lick up the salt-and-sand mixture that snowplows spread over a highway, leading to collisions with vehicles traversing the icy canyon roadway.

At least three goats were hit and killed by motorists over a

## THE CENSUS

**950**

commemorative footballs for the attempt.

The number of footballs thrown at once in Ada, Ohio, setting a Guinness World Record. The Lima News reported that Guinness certified the record set on Oct. 25 at the Ada War Memorial Stadium football field. The Wilson football factory in Ada donated more than 1,000

five-day span in October and November near the tip of the Snake River Canyon south of Jackson and near the Idaho state line, Wyoming Game and Fish wildlife biologist Gary Fraticelli told the Jackson Hole News & Guide.

The actual number of goats killed each year along U.S. Highways 26 and 89 could be a lot higher, he said.

## Mother charged after son is hurt in washer

**IN** ELWOOD — A woman who told police in August that she found her 5-year-old son injured inside a running washing machine now faces a child neglect charge.

Madison County prosecutors recently charged Heather Oliver, 30, of Elwood with one felony count of neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury.

Police were dispatched on Aug. 16 to an Elwood hospital, where they met the boy's father. Nurses told officers the child had been

in and out of consciousness and had multiple bruises on his upper body and scratches on his arms, according to court documents.

Oliver later told officers she had thought she saw her son, who has a form of autism, in bed when she went to get a glass of milk in the kitchen, but then heard the washing machine filling with water and went to investigate.

## Man facing 11th drunken driving charge

**WI** STOUGHTON — Authorities said a man is facing his 11th drunken driving charge after a hit-and-run crash on Christmas night.

The Wisconsin State Journal reported that Bruce Henningfield, 59, was arrested shortly before 7:45 p.m. Wednesday and taken to the Dane County Jail after a blood draw was completed, Stoughton police said in a statement.

Henningfield is accused of crashing into a parked vehicle in the parking lot of his Stoughton

apartment complex and leaving the scene.

## 9 suspected of voting twice may be charged

**IA** DES MOINES — State officials have referred nine people to Iowa county attorneys, saying the nine voted twice in the November election last year.

The Iowa secretary of state's office said in a news release Friday that the nine are suspected of voting in Iowa after casting ballots in other states.

There were 27 suspected instances of people voting first in Iowa and then other states during the same election.

## Police help deliver a Christmas baby

**NH** CONCORD — New Hampshire police helped deliver a baby on Interstate 93 early Christmas morning.

State police posted the news and a photo with the baby and parents at the hospital on social media Wednesday morning.

State police Sgt. Vincent Grieco and Trooper Ryan St. Cyr and Boscawen Police Officer Ryan Nolan helped welcome baby Dominic into the world in Concord shortly after midnight, WMUR-TV reported.

From wire reports

## WORLD

# Sydney New Year's fireworks to carry on amid wildfires

By TRISTAN LAVALETTE  
Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Sydney's iconic New Year's Eve fireworks will go ahead despite the country's wildfire crisis to show the world Australia's resiliency, the prime minister said, while authorities on Sunday braced for conditions to deteriorate with high temperatures.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison also announced financial support for some volunteer firefighters in New South Wales, the state worst hit by wildfires ravaging the nation.

"The world looks at Sydney every single year and they look at our vibrancy, they look at our passion, they look at our success," he said. "In the midst of the challenges that we face, subject to the safety considerations, I can think

of no better time to express to the world just how optimistic and positive we are as a country."

The City of Sydney Council gave the green light although fire authorities warned that the fireworks could be canceled if catastrophic conditions are declared.

Morrison said that eligible volunteer firefighters will receive \$209 a day, up to \$4,190 in total, if called out to battle blazes for more than 10 days. The compensation focused on people who are self-employed or work for small and medium-size businesses.

"The early and prolonged nature of this fire season has made a call beyond what is typically made on our volunteer firefighters," he said.

Morrison, who has been under pressure since taking a much-criticized family vacation to Hawaii during the wildfire crisis,



Rick Rycroft/AP

**Fireworks explode over the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge on Jan. 1, 2017. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison says the New Year's Eve fireworks will go ahead despite a wildfire crisis.**

announced last week that volunteer firefighters from the federal public sector will receive paid leave entitlements.

The opposition Labor party has been pressing the government to consider widespread compensation for volunteer firefighters.

"A lot of everyone's stunned, a lot of time away from work," said Sean Warren, a volunteer firefighter for about seven years. "A lot of people are using up their annual leave as well. A lot of people are just missing their families ... they've skipped Christmas with

their families and their grandchildren. So yeah, it's a wide extreme of sacrifice that people have been putting in."

Morrison said the compensation was necessary so that the New South Wales fires commissioner is in a position to continue to call out the volunteer force.

The program is expected to cost \$34.9 million but will be uncapped with the first \$6.9 million being made available next month. Morrison said it would be offered to other states and territories requesting help.

## Avalanche kills woman, 2 kids on Italian glacier

ROME — An avalanche killed a woman and two children who were skiing on a glacier in the Italian Alps on Saturday.

One of the children, severely injured, was taken by helicopter to a hospital. Italian RAI state TV reported the child later died.

Both children were 7 years old. At least one other skier was injured.

## Missile strike kills 9 at Yemeni military parade

SANAA, Yemen — A ballistic missile attack ripped through a military parade for a Yemeni southern separatist group that's backed by the United Arab Emirates, killing at least six troops and three children, a spokesman said Sunday.

Footage circulated online of Sunday's attack showing a hole in a stage at the edge of the field, apparently from an explosion, while other footage showed dead bodies on the ground.

More than 20 people including civilians were wounded in the blast, Maged al-Shoeibi, a spokesman for the group, said. He blamed the Houthis for the attack.

From The Associated Press

## Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

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## FACES



YBN Cordae, shown Dec. 17, is nominated for two Grammys, for his album "The Lost Boy" and his song "Bad Idea" featuring Chance the Rapper.

REBECCA CABAGE, INVISION/AP

# Raw emotion

## YBN Cordae touched by Grammy nominations

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.

Associated Press

**W**hen YBN Cordae posted a video of himself shedding tears in reaction to receiving two Grammy nominations, the rapper initially regretted sharing his raw emotions to millions on social media.

But Cordae ultimately decided against removing the post, because being "vulnerable and transparent" — just like in his music — is his way of life. His debut album, "The Lost Boy," is nominated for best rap album and his single, "Bad Idea" featuring Chance the Rapper, is up for best rap song.

**AP: Why did you initially regret posting such an emotional video after hearing about your Grammy nominations?**

**Cordae:** After I posted it, I was thinking like, "Man, maybe I shouldn't have done that. I should've kept that more so private." But then, I felt like I'm a human being first. With my fan base, I'm just vulnerable. I'm very transparent and vulnerable. In that moment, it wasn't like the nominations came as a surprise. I had that energy when I was creating this body of work. I was just on the phone with my mom talking about it. We were just talking about all the stuff we've been through. And you know, I just got emotional. ... My mom had me when she was 16, and I was talking about all that. For me to learn about the Grammy (stuff), that brought (me) to tears.

**Rappers are known for putting up a hard exterior. Did that play a part in you second-guessing your post?**

I don't try to portray some lifestyle that I'm not living. I'm not the hardest (man) walking around. I've never killed nobody before. I'm not sweet. I'm not nobody's (punk). If the situation comes about, I'm going to handle myself like a man. But I ain't no

gangsta. I don't have nothing to prove. I'm not trying to portray myself as something that I'm not. I always say I am myself unapologetically.

**Why do you think your music has resonated so quickly?**

I knew what I was creating. Just the transitions, the interludes, the instrumentation. It's very musical. In the beginning of "Winter-time" (the album's first track), it begins with a saxophone and ends up with a piano chord. You know, Quincy Jones is talking at the end from a conversation. I actually cut that from a conversation excerpt that me and him had. I put my heart into the music.

**You turned down an opportunity to attend the Grammys last year. Why?**

Because I was like, "I'm going to wait until next year when I'm nominated for something." Literally, I said that verbatim.

**So you spoke this into existence?**

Exactly. I've been speaking this since 2014, bro. I made a vision board with a Grammy plaque.

**Do you still have it?**

Yeah, it's in my room right now. (He pulls out his phone). ... Look at my home screen. It's a photoshopped picture of me holding Grammys with my face on it.

The past year and half has been a life-altering experience for Cordae, who spring-boarded into success after his 2017 song "Old (Expletive)," a response to J. Cole's "1985," was heard more than a million times in one day, he says. The rapper said the song picked up so much steam, he quit his job waiting tables at a restaurant and dropped out of Towson University in Maryland to pursue his music career full-time.

In an interview while shooting a music video at a luxury home in Beverly Hills, Calif., the 22-year-old talked about his emotional post, his Grammy nominations and being part of the hip-hop collective YBN, which includes several rappers such as YBN Nahmir and YBN Almightly Jay.

That's what I'm saying when I say I'm not surprised. It's not some cocky (expletive). I'm humbled by it. It means the world to me.

**How did you feel when people didn't believe in your Grammy proclamations years ago?**

Sometimes if you don't tell your dreams, they can't shoot them down. A wise man once told me that.

**Your song "Bad Idea" with Chance the Rapper is up for a Grammy as well ...**

"The surprise me. I'm not going to lie, I wasn't expecting it. I knew that song was special, but I'll definitely take it. That shocked me. All I cared about was the body of work. But the fact that the song got there. ... I was like, "Yeah, we'll see!"

**How would you explain YBN?**

It's a renaissance. The real is coming back.

**How do you feel shooting your music video and looking over the city of L.A. from this home?**

It's dope. I was broke a year and a half ago. I'm always thinking tunnel vision like, you know, "What's next?" I never get complacent. I just keep working and stay motivated and stay on the grind 24/7. But there's moments when you sit back, relish in the moment and thank God.

## Russell quick to accept helmeted 'Skywalker' role

The Washington Post

Keri Russell's career was already riding high, with her multi-Emy-nominated turn on "The Americans," when she heard from an old friend.

It was J.J. Abrams, who two decades earlier provided her breakout role on TV's "Felicity," which he co-created. His email posed a simple question:

Do you want to join Star Wars?

The offer a couple of years ago, though, came with a caveat. The character she would play in "Rise of the Skywalker," a spice smuggler named Zorii Bliss, would never remove her helmet, which covers her entire face, except occasionally her eyes.

So "I can see everyone, but no one can see me," Russell says. "There's a real power play to that," continues Russell, describing how her nimble scoundrel of a character — who has a past with the dashing pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) — would be a distinct change of pace after starring roles. She jumped at the chance to disappear into Zorii.

While Abrams was co-writing the character, though, he didn't even have his old pal in mind.

"You're really not thinking about specific actors," Abrams says. But then, "We started to cast the picture and suddenly there was an opportunity to work with Keri again, which is something that one takes advantage of if possible.

"So she was the first person I reached out to" about Zorii, "just to say: Listen, there's this pretty fun character," he says.

Because Russell has training as a dancer, Abrams knew that the actress could readily play the quick, agile Zorii. And he was quite confident that Russell could deliver Zorii's sly humor.

Yet the "Rise" director also wanted someone who could communicate with simply their voice.

"The biggest thing is the conveying of emotion," Abrams says. Russell, the director says, is able to have "a connection to a character (that) is usually weirdly sort of deep and abstract."



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

## Disney removes brief scene for Singapore

A brief scene showing a celestial same-sex kiss between two minor characters has been removed from "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" in Singapore.

The clip was removed by Disney so the movie wouldn't receive a higher age rating.

"The application has omitted a brief scene which, under the film classification guidelines, would require a higher rating," said a spokesperson from the country's governmental body of media regulations. Sex between men is illegal and punished by law in the wealthy city-state in Southeast Asia. Films depicting LGBTQ content are subject to censorship.

From The New York Daily News



Frazz

Dilbert

Pearly Before Swine

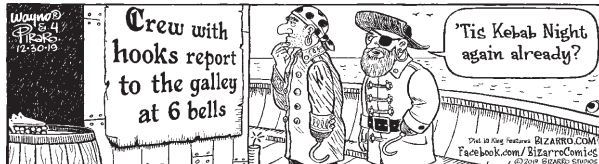
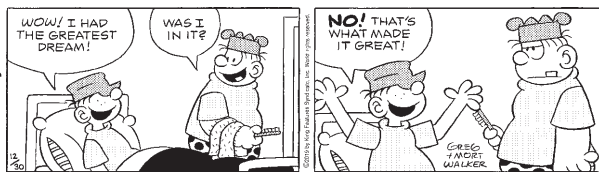
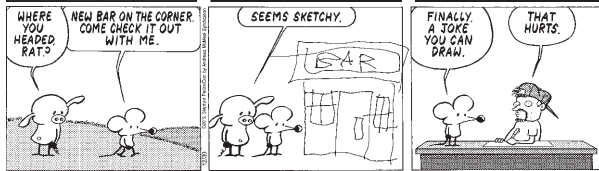
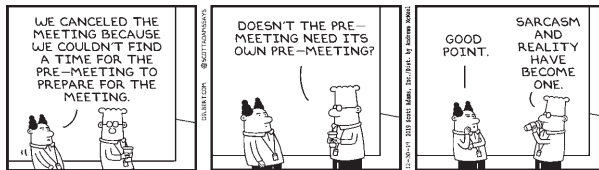
Non Sequitur

Candorville

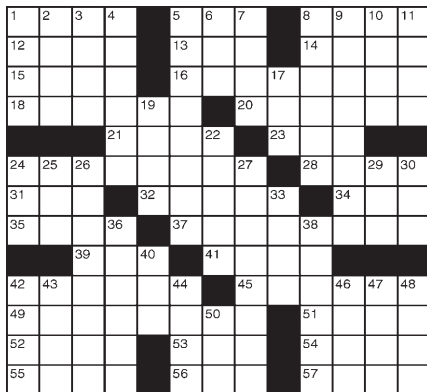
Carpe Diem

Beetle Bailey

Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- 1 Chanteuse Edith
- 5 Links org.
- 8 Too
- 12 Kotb of "Today"
- 13 Filch
- 14 500 sheets
- 15 Rat- —
- 16 Eternally
- 18 Large gong
- 20 Try to hear better, maybe
- 21 Author Bagnold
- 23 Nabokov novel
- 24 Symbol of stability
- 28 La Scala solo
- 31 — tai (cocktail)
- 32 Van Gogh venue
- 34 Mafia boss
- 35 Hostels
- 37 Vespers
- 39 Secret agent
- 41 Ms. Brockovich
- 42 Ceremony
- 45 Slanted type
- 49 The whole crowd
- 51 Actress Fisher
- 52 Lure
- 53 Some coll. degrees
- 54 Hideaway
- 55 Curry and Landers
- 56 "Game, —, match!"

## DOWN

- 1 Excellent, in slang
- 2 Speck
- 3 Leading man?
- 4 Plump up
- 5 Opening night
- 6 State VIP
- 7 Genesis shepherd
- 8 Fleet
- 9 "Mona Lisa" painter
- 10 Rani's wrap
- 11 Portent
- 17 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 19 "Puppy Love" singer
- 22 Look (into)
- 24 Brit, record label
- 25 Moving vehicle
- 26 Genius
- 27 Most skeptical
- 29 Charged bit
- 30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 33 Tizzy
- 36 Gushes forth
- 38 Slowpokes
- 40 "Rah!"
- 42 Ms. McEntire
- 43 Infamous tsar
- 44 High tennis shots
- 46 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 47 "Would — to you?"
- 48 Shopper's aid
- 50 Scott's refusal

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-30

## CRYPTOQUIP

QDP WQFBDTCL BZP BFLAXCC  
UNQ ETETFMXP XWXAJSQPJ  
DTMX B UXDD - MZQUZ  
LBDBMLTWX STAP: EJZBN  
CNQAX.

**Saturday's Cryptquip:** VERY WELL-KNOWN BASKETBALL PLAYER WHO HAS DEFECTED TO A FAMOUS ITALIAN PORT: VENICE RODMAN.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals L

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Ernie Gates

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# OPINION

## 3D printing is about to save the military billions

By Will Roper

Special to The Washington Post

In my job, I get to see some amazing military technology: high-speed weapons that penetrate swarming microdrones dispensed from fighter jets. I keep memos of these wonder weapons in my office. Something unusual just joined their ranks: a latrine paper from a C-5 Super Galaxy cargo plane.

It's an odd-looking piece of molded plastic, about the size of a toaster, and its job containing wastewater is more necessary than cool. But I keep it in my office because it represents a significant advance in military parts purchasing. Using a 3D printer, our Air Force engineers made this latrine paper for \$300, saving \$8,200 compared with the open market prices we once paid through the Defense Logistics Agency.

Though our military is replete with cutting-edge equipment like stealth aircraft and flying cruise missiles — there's a side of weapons-buying that's highlighted less often: the maintenance of older systems, like the amazing C-5 cargo plane. The C-5, which entered service in 1969, moves the military's heaviest equipment, including tanks and helicopters, and must be kept running 24/7. The "keep — a "sustainment" in military parlance — accounts for approximately 70 percent of a weapon's total cost of ownership, according to Government Accountability Office assessments. For the 52 C-5s the Air Force operates, that amounts to about \$620 million per year.

But takeoff-ready airplanes are the delineator between a fight-tonight Air Force and a mere air show. Since America requires the former, we've borne this expensive side of defense economics for decades. Warplanes like the C-5, the KC-135 aerial refueler, and the B-52 bomber play indispensable roles in our nation's defense, but many of these aircraft are considerably older than their pilots. If they were cars, they'd be collectors' items. And like class-

sic cars, it's increasingly expensive to keep them running with replacement parts in short supply. Except, unlike cars, our planes are on the front lines every day, not kept in the garage on weekend drives.

But new manufacturing technology is poised to change that in a way that will streamline maintenance and save federal dollars.

Laws of supply and demand currently work against our military when it comes to parts, as antique car enthusiasts well know. You start with the challenge of motivating companies to take our 2D drawings, create 3D models, machine prototypes, check myriad military standards (for burning point, melting point and other specifications), then dedicate equipment and people for a small production we likely won't reorder for many years. Supply (there is none) and demand (it's essential for us) require us to keep raising the offering price until it motivates a manufacturer — all the way to \$8,500 in the case of the C-5 latrine paper. Below that price, manufacturers say it's just not worth it to reopen production.

Even sticker-shock prices don't always motivate companies. According to our estimates, more than 10,000 parts requests are delayed or unfilled each year, despite our reluctance to haggle to pay premium prices. Defense officials should reasonably question. If you're wondering why it cost the Air Force over \$2,600 for a C-5 aft pressure door handle in 2018, it's because manufacturers did not bid when the price was lower.

We now save both time and money printing them from titanium for \$188.

In two short years, 3D printing has spread across the Air Force. Today, we print thousands of spare aircraft parts from metals and polymers, lowering operating cost by tens of millions while getting planes never from the flight line. The need is severe. For example, three C-5s are currently grounded, awaiting exhaust ducts because our purchase offer of just over \$430,000 for eight units did not entice

a single supplier for months, forcing us to cannibalize parts from the "aircraft boneyard" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. When we finally received a bid, the earliest delivery was 34 weeks.

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But new manufacturing technology is poised to change that in a way that will streamline maintenance and save federal dollars.

Will Roper is the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics.

## Season's greeting: May your days be merry and bright

By David Von Drehle

The Washington Post

In East Asia, the ancient festival of the winter solstice is called Dongzhi. Among Persians, it is Shah-e Yalda. Romans had their Saturnalia, the Inca their Inti Raymi. The Hopi celebrate Soyal.

Neolithic Druids of Southern England had pass passion for the solstice that they muscled tons weighing upward of 25 tons each across miles of unbroken ground to the place where they carved and polished them by hand to build Stonehenge. The staggering construction, the work of a thousand years or more, is exquisitely calibrated to the position of the sun on the shortest day of the year.

We find this primal holiday recurring across time, space and cultures because it speaks to the most basic human fears and hopes. Our distant forebears lacked our scientific scaffolding, the latticework of insights and measurements that allow us to understand why the sun seems to drain away in autumn. What a harrowing experience that must have been to the first conscious humans. And what a thrill of hope must have surged when the sun's return, warmth and life-sustaining light began to flood back, a day at a time toward spring.

The zero hour between death and life, dark and light, despair and hope, surrender and persistence has always cried out for commemoration. The terror of the sun's vanishing against the backdrop of the light's return. This contrast is wired into

our earliest brains.

And so, when the adherents of an offshoot faith, some 2,500 years after Stonehenge, offered their slain teacher to be a new light for a darkened world, they naturally attached his origin story to the winter solstice. Early Christians appear concerned with their savior's childhood; the Gospel of Mark, generally agreed to be the oldest extant Christian narrative, introduces Jesus as an adult, and the apostle Paul's letters never mention the figure Bethlehem, no inn, no lowly manger, no herald angels. When Christians got around to a biography in Matthew and Luke, the authors filled it with solstice imagery: a light in the eastern sky, a new birth of hope.

The lights of Christmas in deep midwinter have always spoken to me. Folklore has it that the first modern string of electrical bulbs were devised by an electrician in my hometown. David Dwight Sturgeon, of Denver, wanted to cheer up his ailing son so he dipped a string of lights in paint, one red, one green, one red, one green until all the glass globes were painted.

That was 1914. By 1920, Denver's Christmas lights were so popular they inspired a newspaper to sponsor an annual competition for the best display. Five years later, according to the Denver Post, someone somewhere (details foggy) pronounced Denver the "Christmas city of the world."

And so it seemed to my 4-year-old eyes when my family returned to the Denver suburbs after a long stay in the East. We immediately started a family tradition

of heading downtown each December. Bundled up, my siblings and I peered into the display windows of May D&F, one of the city's oldest department stores, which were filled each season with marvelous mechanical tableaux. From there, we walked to the City and County Building, a vast monstrosity stretching in a semicircle across a full city block.

The lights on the gray stone were overwhelming, perhaps garish to a sophisticated eye but magical to mine. Floodlights of blue, gold, red and green bathed the building and cast a reflected glow onto our faces as we beheld animatronic elves at work not far from the Nativity scene. The infant Jesus was a minor celebrity compared with the life-size reindeer, identified by nameplates. And the biggest star of all needed no introduction beyond his flashing red nose.

Best of all was church on Christmas Eve, when they doused the lights to leave a single candle glowing. That candle lit another. Those candles lit two more. Hand to hand, the flame passed along the pews until everyone held a dancing little flame. The church was now illuminated by a warmer, richer light. Thus our ritual reenacted the solstice.

The season belongs to every human. And so to all of you sharing another trip around the sun, I wish you light and hope for the year ahead.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

## SCOREBOARD/KING

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## College football

## Bowl schedule

**Friday, Dec. 20**  
**Bahamas Bowl**  
 Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9  
**Frisco (Texas) Bowl**  
 Kent State 31, Utah State 41  
**Saturday, Dec. 21**  
**Celebration Bowl**  
 NC A&T 64, Alcorn State 44  
**New Mexico Bowl**  
 San Diego State 48, Central Michigan 11  
**Cure Bowl**  
 Liberty 23, Georgia Southern 16  
**Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl**  
 FAU 52, SMU 25  
**Camellia Bowl**  
 Arkansas State 24, FIU 20  
**Las Vegas Bowl**  
 Washington 38, Boise State 7  
**New Orleans Bowl**  
 Appalachian State 31, UAB 17  
**Monday, Dec. 23**  
**Gasparilla Bowl**  
 UCF 48, Miami 57  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
**Hawaii Bowl**  
 Hawaii 38, BYU 34  
**Thursday, Dec. 26**  
**Independence Bowl**  
 Louisiana Tech 14, Miami 0  
**Quick Lane Bowl**  
 Pittsburgh 34, Eastern Michigan 30  
**Friday, Dec. 27**  
**Military Bowl**  
 North Carolina 55, Temple 13  
**Michigan State 27, Wake Forest 21**  
**Texas Bowl**  
 Texas A&M 24, Oklahoma State 21  
**Holiday Bowl**  
 Iowa 49, Southern Illinois 30  
**Chester-Bell Bowl**  
 Air Force 31, Washington State 21  
**Friday, Dec. 28**  
**Camping World Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Notre Dame 33, Iowa State 9  
**Cotton Bowl Classic**  
 Arlington, Texas  
 Penn State 31, Michigan 30  
**Peach Bowl**  
 LSU 63, Oklahoma State 48  
**Fiesta Bowl**  
 Glendale, Ariz.  
 Clemson 29, Ohio State 23  
**Monday, Dec. 29**  
**SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**  
 Las Vegas  
 Western Kentucky (8-4) vs. Western Michigan (7-5)  
**U.S. Navy City Bowl**  
 Nashville, Tenn.  
 Mississippi State (5-5) vs. Louisville (7-5)  
**Redbox Bowl**  
 Santa Clara, Calif.  
 Illinois (6-6) vs. California (7-5)  
**Orange Bowl**  
 Miami Gardens, Fla.  
 Florida (10-2) vs. Virginia (9-4)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 30**  
**Bell Bowl**  
 Charlotte, N.C.  
 Kentucky (7-5) vs. Virginia Tech (8-4)  
**El Paso, Texas**  
 Florida State (6-6) vs. Arizona State (7-5)  
**Liberty Bowl**  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 Kansas State (7-5) vs. Tennessee (9-2)  
**Arcadia Bowl**  
 Tucson, Ariz.  
 Wyoming (7-5) vs. Washington State (7-5)  
**Alamo Bowl**  
 San Antonio, Texas  
 Texas (7-5) vs. Utah (11-2)  
**Wednesday, Jan. 1**  
**Citrus Bowl**  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Michigan (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2)  
**Outback Bowl**  
 Tampa, Fla.  
 Minnesota (10-2) vs. Auburn (9-3)  
**Rose Bowl**  
 Pasadena, Calif.  
 Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (10-3)  
**Sugar Bowl**  
 New Orleans  
 Georgia (11-2) vs. Baylor (11-2)  
**Thursday, Jan. 2**  
**Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl**  
 Cincinnati (10-3) vs. Boston College (6-6)  
**Gator Bowl**  
 Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Indiana (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5)  
**Friday, Jan. 3**  
**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**  
 Boise  
 Ohio (6-6) vs. Nevada (7-5)  
**Saturday, Jan. 4**  
**Armed Forces Bowl**  
 Fort Worth, Texas  
 Southern Illinois (7-5) vs. TCU (10-6)  
**Monday, Jan. 6**  
**Leaning Tower of Pisa Bowl**  
 Mobile, Ala.  
 Miami (10-3) (8-5) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (10-3)  
**Monday, Jan. 13**  
**College Football Championship**  
 New Orleans  
 Clemson (14-0) vs. LSU (14-0)

## College basketball

## Men's Top 25 fared

**Saturday**  
 1. Gonzaga (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Detroit, Monday.  
 2. Ohio State (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 West Virginia, Sunday.  
 3. Louisville (11-2) lost to No. 19, Kentucky 78-70, OT. Next: vs. No. 17 Florida State, Saturday.  
 4. Duke (11-1) beat Brown 75-50. Next: vs. Boston College, Tuesday.  
 5. Kansas (9-3) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Sunday.  
 6. Oregon (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama State, Sunday.  
 7. Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Jackson State, Monday.  
 8. Auburn (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lipscomb, Sunday.  
 9. Memphis (11-1) beat New Orleans 97-55. Next: vs. Tulane, Monday.  
 10. Villanova (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Monday.  
 11. Michigan (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. UMass Lowell, Sunday.  
 12. Butler (12-1) beat Louisiana-Monroe 67-36. Next: at St. John's, Tuesday.  
 13. Maryland (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Brainerd, Sunday.  
 14. Michigan State (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Michigan, Tuesday.  
 15. San Diego State (13-0) beat Cal Poly 73-57. Next: vs. Fresno State, Wednesday.  
 16. Virginia (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Navy, Sunday.  
 17. Florida State (11-2) beat North Carolina 88-71. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Tuesday.  
 18. Dayton (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Monday.  
 19. Kentucky (9-3) beat No. 3 Louisville 78-70, OT. Next: vs. Missouri, Saturday.  
 20. Penn State (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cornell, Sunday.  
 21. Washington (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. UCL, Thursday.  
 22. West Virginia (10-1) did not play. Next: at No. 2 Ohio State, Sunday.  
 23. Texas Tech (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Cal State Bakersfield, Sunday.  
 24. Arizona (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Sunday.  
 25. Iowa (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Sunday.

## Saturday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 Catholic 75, Mercer 61  
 Coll. of Charleston 76, Drexel 65  
 Columbia 69, Marist 54  
 Duquesne 89, Bryn Athyn 60  
 Fairfield 66, Wagner 54  
 George Washington 78, Longwood 66  
 Georgetown 50, American 40  
 Northeastern 61, Towson 45  
 Salie 73, Bucknell 59  
 LIU Brooklyn 125, Centenary (NJ) 84  
 Penn St.-Altoona 76, Methodist 65  
 St. Joseph (Conn.), 91, Southern Poly 80  
**MIDWEST**  
 Wheatley 97, Emory & Henry 75  
 Wesleyan (Mass.) 82, Stony Island 62  
 Miami 71, Niagara 57  
 Delaware 82, UNC-Wilmington 68  
 Old Westbury 75, Pace Manor 72  
 Mount Union 84, Alfred 66  
 William Patterson 67, Juniata 58  
 St. Joseph's 82, Joseph's 66  
 Medgar Evers 119, D'Youville 113  
 Lycoming 64, Union (NY) 54  
**SOUTH**  
 Bridgewater 76, WVU 69, Curry 67  
 Florida 102, Long Beach 53  
 Duke 75, Brown 50  
 Eastern Carolina 82, E. Kentucky 74  
 East Tennessee 68, North Alabama 71  
 Hampton 70, St. Peter's 67  
 Furman 59, James Madison 76  
 Jacksonville 57, Gardner 38  
 Kentucky 78, Louisville 70, OT  
 Memphis 97, New Orleans 55  
 Mercer 104, Milligan 53  
 Morehead St. 102, Alice Lloyd 46  
 Morrisville 91, Southeastern (Fla.) 82  
 N. Kentucky 74, Milwaukee 64  
 South Alabama 75, Mobile 47  
 UAB 82, Thomas (Ga.) 49  
 Washington & Lee 79, St. Mary's (Md.) 65  
 W. Carolina 108, Piedmont 47  
 Wisconsin 68, Tennessee 60  
 Morehead St. 102, William Peace 34  
 Charleston-South 108, Piedmont International 52  
 Christopher Newport 89, Bethany (WV) 52  
 Lincoln 104, St. George's 7  
 Belhaven 93, Covenant 85  
**MIDWEST**  
 Alquin 73, Baldwin 70  
 Albion 78, Calumet 65  
 Bowling Green 78, Ohio 40  
 Butler 67, Nebraska 60  
 Concordia (Nebr.) 109, Peru 36  
 Cornerstone 68, Grace Church 59  
 Hastings 92, Presentation 72  
 Kean 102, Trent 70, Hope 50  
 Lourdes 84, Kent St.-Tuscarawas 63  
 Kentucky 106, Cent. Arkansas 54  
 Minnesota 89, Detroit 71  
 Oakland 84, Filu 62  
 Loyet 87, Westminster (Pa.) 77  
 Purdue 97, Cent. Michigan 62  
 St. Mary's 88, Marietta 66  
 UIC 91, Cleveland 28  
 Wright St. 90, Green Bay 84  
 Youngstown 87, Ohio Wesleyan 77  
 Youngstown State 83, IUUPI 73  
 Creighton 91, Midland 54

John Carroll 95, Whitworth 89  
 Bluffton 70, Otterbein 59  
 Wooten 93, Keene St. 76  
 Muskingum 91, Ramapo 82  
 Michigan-Dearborn 81, Spring Arbor 74  
 Bethel (Ind.) 105, Lawrence Tech 50  
 Dakota Wesleyan 83, Trinity 61  
 Jamestown 93, Dakota 66  
 Briar Cliff 77, Waldorf 71  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 E. Texas Baptist 88, Blackburn 69  
 Stephen F. Austin 94, Paul Quinn 52  
 UTSA 99, Our Lady of the Lake 64  
 Arkansas St. 64, Freed-Hardeman 73  
**FAR WEST**  
 Arizona St. 98, Texas Southern 81  
 Washington 79, Weber St. 77  
 Colorado St. 87, Doane 62  
 UNLV 64, E. Michigan 49  
 Utah St. 129, E. Oregon 61  
 Cal St.-Fullerton 77, UCLA 74  
 Washington 99, Antelope Valley 65  
 Portland St. 69, N. Colorado 65  
 Boise St. 103, CS Northridge 72  
 Wyoming St. Nebraska Wesleyan 68  
 Montana St. 66, Sacramento St. 51  
 San Diego St. 73, Cal Poly 57  
 Saint Mary's (Cal.) 84, Seattle 58  
 Idaho St. 62, Idaho 60  
 Montana 79, N. Arizona 72  
 BYU 79, Oral Roberts 73  
 Jose St. 83, Pepperdine 68  
 UC Riverside 60, Fresno St. 57  
 Morgan St. 74, Loyola Marymount 71  
 Cal Baptist 92, Ottawa 75  
 UC Irvine 69, Pacific 56  
 Torunue 111, William 105  
 Tufts 80, La Verne 69  
 Rosemead 73, Cal Lutheran 53  
 Chapman 88, Bethesda 74  
 Hardin-Simmons 113, Wayland Baptist 18  
 Carroll (Mont.) 93, Walla Walla 55  
 San Diego State 73, Cal Poly 57

## Saturday's women's scores

**EAST**  
 Drew 85, Clark U. 59  
 Franklin 95, Salve Regina 69  
 N. Carolina 57, Bethany (WV) 29  
 NC Central 61, LIU Brooklyn 59  
 St. Joseph's (L.I.) 88, Lehman 64  
 York (Pa.) 51, Hartwick 46  
 Michigan 81, Penn St. 74  
 Maryland 90, Michigan 55  
 Amherst 73, Desales 52  
 George Fox 54, Denver 44  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 62, Jacksonville St. 53  
 Campbell 73, High Point 44  
 Cent. Michigan 92, Bethune-Cookman 69  
 Charlotte 64, Gardner-Webb 40  
 Longwood 80, Middle Tennessee 44  
 Florida A&M 41  
 Mississippi 93, Alabama St. 66  
 North Carolina 79, North Carolina 79  
 Florida 90, Holy Cross 60  
 S.C.-Upstate 70, Charleston Southern 59  
 ASU Asheville 54, Presbyterian 39  
 Hampton 55, UNC-Wilmington 57  
 Yale 66, North Carolina 63  
 Southern Miss. 71, Faulkner 59  
 Furman St. 83, Cumberland (Tenn.) 60  
 Morris 70, Christopher Newport 65  
 Tufts 63, Fordham 59  
**MIDWEST**  
 Capital 81, Goucher 45  
 Nevada 84, St. 84  
 Green Bay 65, N. Kentucky 44  
 Kansas St. 79, Texas Rio Grande Valley 66  
 Milwaukee 60, Wright St. 58  
 Nebraska 78, Iowa 69  
 Northwestern 77, Illinois 50  
 Florida 71, Delaware 66  
 Olivet 61, Westminster (Pa.) 59  
 Purdue 66, Ohio St. 50  
 Northern Wisconsin 61  
 Valparaiso 55, Chicago St. 49  
 North Carolina 79, North Carolina 79  
 Youngstown St. 75, IUUPI 73  
 Indiana 79, Michigan 57  
 Furman 81, Cumberland 63  
 Bethany Lutheran 73, St. Benedict 62  
 St. Joseph's 82, St. Joseph's 66  
 John Carroll 66, Oberlin 33  
 Milwaukee 66, Hanover 59  
 Skidmore 62, Denison 40  
 Morrisville 86, Valley City St. 55  
 St. Benedict 62, St. Benedict 62  
**FINAL GOUCHER 45 Capital 81**  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Abilene Christian 79, New Mexico St. 49  
 Arcadia 70 79, Paul Quinn 62  
 Wayland Baptist 88, Hardin-Simmons 75  
**FAR WEST**  
 CS Northridge 74, San Diego St. 69, OT  
 Fresno St. 52, UC Irvine 40  
 Montana 79, N. Arizona 71  
 Portland St. 69, Portland St. 58  
 Utah Valley 99, Ottawa (Ariz.) 50  
 Pepperdine 73, San Diego St. 57  
 Cal Poly 87, Cal Poly 87  
 Santa Clara 75, Pacific 66  
 Santa Clara 75, Pacific 66  
 Santa Clara 75, Pacific 66  
 St. Mary's 88, Marietta 66  
 E. Washington 63, Weber St. 53  
 Oregon 125, Corban 42  
 Vandenberg 66, Lewis & Clark 46  
 Whittier 74, Webster 59  
 Master's 96, Olney Nazarene 77

## Pro football

NFL													
American Conference													
East													
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
10	5	0	.667	308	246	12	4	0	.800	389	358		
9	6	0	.600	265	253	10	5	0	.667	308	246		
4	11	0	.267	470	470	4	11	0	.267	470	470		
South													
5	Houston	7	0	.857	364	350	5	Houston	7	0	.857	364	350
8	Tennessee	7	0	.533	367	317	8	Tennessee	7	0	.533	367	317
7	Indianapolis	7	0	.533	367	317	7	Indianapolis	7	0	.533	367	317
7	Jacksonville	7	0	.533	367	317	7	Jacksonville	7	0	.533	367	317
North													
7	Baltimore	7	0	.857	303	272	7	Baltimore	7	0	.857	303	272
8	Pittsburgh	8	7	.533	275	275	8	Pittsburgh	8	7	.533	275	275
6	Cleveland	6	9	.400	312	360	6	Cleveland	6	9	.400	312	360
1	Cincinnati	1	4	.067	246	397	1	Cincinnati	1	4	.067	246	397
West													
11	Kansas City	11	4	.733	420	287	11	Kansas City	11	4	.733	420	287
8	Denver	8	8	.467	298	403	8	Denver	8	8	.467	298	403
6	Oakland	6	9	.400	260	301	6	Oakland	6	9	.400	260	301
4	L.A. Chargers	10	33	.316	316	314	4	L.A. Chargers	10	33	.316	316	314
National Conference													
East													
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
8	Philadelphia	8	7	.533	351	337	8	Philadelphia	8	7	.533	351	337
7	Atlanta	7	8	.467	387	305	7	Atlanta	7	8	.467	387	305
6	Washington	3	12	.200	257	324	6	Washington	3	12	.200	257	324
3	San Francisco	3	12	.200	257	324	3	San Francisco	3	12	.200	257	324
South													
12	New Orleans	12	0	.800	416	331	12	New Orleans	12	0	.800	416	331
7	Tampa Bay	7	8	.467	436	421	7	Tampa Bay	7	8	.467	436	421
7	Atlanta	7	8	.467	436	421	7	Atlanta	7	8	.467	436	421
5	Carolina	5	10	.333	330	428	5	Carolina	5	10	.333	330	428
North													
12	Green Bay	12	0	.800	353	293	12	Green Bay	12	0	.800	353	293
10	Minnesota	10	0	.667	388	282	10	Minnesota	10	0	.667	388	282
7	Detroit	7	8	.467	387	317	7	Detroit	7	8	.467	387	317
3	Detroit	3	11	.233	421	400	3	Detroit	3	11	.233	421	400
West													
11	San Francisco	12	0	.800	453	289	11	San Francisco	12	0	.800	453	289
11	Seattle	11	4	.733	384	372	11	Seattle	11	4	.733	384	372
8	L.A. Rams	8	0	.533	363	371	8	L.A. Rams	8	0	.533	363	371
5	San Diego	5	9	.357	337	411	5	San Diego	5	9	.357	337	411
0	Cincinnati	0	16	.000	337	411	0	Cincinnati	0	16	.000	337	411

## Saturday's games

Chicago at Minnesota  
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay  
 Miami at New England  
 Arizona at Detroit  
 Cleveland at Cincinnati  
 L.A. Chargers at Kansas City  
 Jets at Buffalo  
 New Orleans at Carolina  
 Oakland at Houston  
 Tennessee at Atlanta  
 Washington at Dallas  
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay  
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants  
 Pittsburgh at Baltimore  
 Arizona at San Francisco

## Baseball

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** Agreed to terms with RHP Shin Yamaguchi on a two-year contract.

**NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**NOVA** - Finest Oklahoma City 6, Dennis Scott \$25,000 for intentionally making contact with a player.

**FOOTBALL**  
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
**ARIZONA CARDINALS** - Signed C Raced Te Darrell Daniels on a three-year contract.  
**CINCINNATI BENGALS** - Signed C Trey Hopkins to a three-year contract extension.

**GREEN BAY PACKERS** - Released CB Tom Clements to the Dallas Cowboys.  
**HOUSTON TEXANS** - Waived DE Joel Heath from the practice squad.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** - Signed RB Mike Anderson to the practice squad.  
**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** - Released OL Ben Braden from the practice squad.  
**NEW YORK GIANTS** - Placed TE Scott Sison on IR. Signed TE Matt Dickerson from the practice squad.

**NEW YORK JETS** - Placed GS Tom Conner on IR. Signed TE Kevin Givens on IR. Signed TE Kevin Givens on IR.  
**NEW YORK JETS** - Placed GS Tom Conner on IR. Signed TE Kevin Givens on IR. Signed TE Kevin Givens on IR.

**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
**ANAHEIM DUCKS** - Reassigned RW Daniel Sprock from the practice squad.  
**YANKEE PREDATORS** - Recalled C Nashville Predators from the practice squad.  
**NEW JERSEY DEVILS** - Activated G Louis Domingue from IR and assigned him to the practice squad.

**MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER**  
**TORONTO** - Signed Luis Aguado to Inter Miami for a 2021 third-round draft pick.



Mikaela Shiffrin celebrates on the podium after winning a World Cup slalom in Lienz, Austria on Sunday.

## Shiffrin's 43rd win in slalom titles mark

By ERIC WILMENSEN  
 Associated Press  
 LIENZ, Austria — Mikaela Shiffrin maintained her unbeaten streak in slalom with her win of the season on Sunday and matched Lindsey Vonn's record for most women's World Cup victories in a single discipline.

Shiffrin earned her 43rd career slalom win by dominating Sunday's race, posting the fastest times in both runs to beat her Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova by 0.61 seconds. Vonn had 43 downhill wins when she retired after the world championships last February.

Sunday's victory left Shiffrin three short of the overall record for most wins in a discipline held by Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark, who won 46 giant slaloms between 1975-89.

However, the American three-time overall champion did set another record as she became the first skier, male or female, with a podium finish in 14 consecutive slalom races.

Shiffrin was 0.26 seconds faster than Vlhova in the opening run, and more than doubled her advantage in the final run, which was set by Vlhova's coach, Linus Magari.

Shiffrin and Vlhova have combined to win all 23 World Cup slaloms since January 2017, with the American taking 17 of them, including all six since January 2019.



NBA

# Doncic's triple powers Mavs past Warriors

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Luka Doncic notched his ninth triple-double of the season and didn't even play the fourth quarter.

Doncic had 31 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds in just 30 minutes, and the Dallas Mavericks routed the Golden State Warriors 141-121 on Saturday night.

"I didn't expect they were going to trap me in the half court," Doncic said. "If they trap me, they have to play four-on-three basketball, which is easy. It's not just one player on the court — we have five — and if they trap me, I'm glad. We're going to hit those open shots. That's easy basketball for us."

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 25 points, Kristaps Porzingis had 18 and Seth Curry added 17 off the bench for the Mavericks, who snapped the Warriors' four-game winning streak.

D'Angelo Russell had 30 points and eight three-pointers in the first half but injured his neck after falling and colliding with Dwight Powell during the third quarter.

"Thank God it wasn't anything too serious," Russell said. "Just a little shoulder contusion. The contact kind of knocked the wind out of me, but I'm good now."

Russell returned for the start of the fourth but the Warriors were downed by 19 at that point. He finished with 35 points and six assists.



Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic, left, is fouled by Golden State Warriors center Willie Cauley-Stein, center, as the Warriors' Draymond Green watches. Doncic had 31 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds in a 141-121 win Saturday in San Francisco.

"I want to talk about Russell," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said, "because I have never seen a guy score 12 points in two minutes to start the game. Right off the bat, he was on pace for 288 points. The shots he was throwing in were amazing. We kept trying to figure out ways to take him out

of rhythm. In the first half, it was virtually impossible. Second half, we got a little more traction."

The Mavericks pulled away when Russell was out, outscoring the Warriors 45-24 in the third quarter. Hardaway made a deep three with 6:55 left in the third to give the Mavericks an eight-point

lead that would only grow as the game went on.

Draymond Green had 10 points and eight assists for Golden State, but he and the Warriors struggled to defend the Mavericks. Dallas shot 52.2% from the floor and made a franchise-record 24 threes.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Boston	22	9	.713 —
Toronto	22	10	.688 1
Philadelphia	23	12	.657 1½
Brooklyn	16	15	.516 6½
New York	9	24	.273 14½
Southeast Division			
Miami	24	8	.750 —
Orlando	14	18	.438 10
Charlotte	13	21	.382 12
Washington	9	25	.260 14½
Atlanta	6	27	.182 18½
Central Division			
Milwaukee	29	5	.853 —
Indiana	21	12	.636 7½
Chicago	13	20	.394 14
Detroit	12	21	.364 16½
Cleveland	10	22	.313 18

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Houston	22	10	.688 —
Dallas	21	10	.677 ½
San Antonio	13	18	.419 8½
Memphis	12	21	.364 10½
New Orleans	10	23	.303 12½
Northwest Division			
Denver	9	7	.100 —
Utah	20	12	.625 2½
Oklahoma City	16	15	.516 6
Portland	14	15	.424 9
Minnesota	11	20	.355 11
Pacific Division			
L.A. Lakers	25	7	.781 —
L.A. Clippers	21	11	.657 ½
Phoenix	12	20	.375 13
Sacramento	12	20	.375 13
Golden State	9	25	.265 17

### Friday's games

Boston 120, Cleveland 117  
Oklahoma City 104, Charlotte 102, OT  
Orlando 98, Philadelphia 97  
Milwaukee 112, Atlanta 96  
Miami 113, Indiana 112

### Saturday's games

Denver 119, Memphis 110  
New Orleans 120, Indiana 98  
Toronto 113, Boston 97  
Chicago 116, Atlanta 81  
Houston 108, Brooklyn 98

### Sunday's games

Oklahoma City at Toronto 11  
New York 107, Washington 100  
Dallas 114, Philadelphia 113, OT  
Dallas 141, Golden State 129  
San Antonio 136, Detroit 105  
Milwaukee 111, Orlando 109  
Phoenix 112, Sacramento 110  
Lakers 128, Portland 109  
Utah 120, L.A. Clippers 107

### Sunday's games

Charlotte at Memphis  
Houston at New Orleans  
Sacramento at Denver  
Dallas at L.A. Lakers

### Monday's games

Atlanta at Orlando  
Miami at Washington  
Brooklyn at Minnesota  
Milwaukee at Chicago  
Detroit at Utah  
Phoenix at Portland

### Tuesday's games

Boston at Charlotte  
Philadelphia at Indiana  
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento  
Cleveland at Atlanta  
Denver at Houston  
Golden State at San Antonio  
Dallas at Oklahoma City

### Wednesday's games

Boston at Charlotte  
Philadelphia at Indiana  
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento  
Cleveland at Atlanta  
Denver at Houston  
Golden State at San Antonio  
Dallas at Oklahoma City

### Calendar

Jan. 10 — All contracts guaranteed for rest of season.  
Feb. 16 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST)  
Feb. 14-16 — All-star weekend, Chicago, Ill.

### April 15 — Regular season ends.

April 18 — Playoffs begin.  
May 19 — Draft lottery, Chicago.  
May 21-24 — Draft combine, Chicago.  
June 4 — NBA Finals begin.  
June 25 — NBA Draft.

### Leaders

Scoring	G	Fg	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	22	34	14	1226	56.2
Antetokounmpo, MIL	31	352	191	947	30.5
Curry, DAL	29	211	124	874	30.1
Young, ATL	31	288	201	883	28.5
Beal, WAS	30	285	188	835	27.8
Davis, LAL	30	299	124	824	27.5
Lillard, POR	31	260	212	837	27.0
Wright, TOR	31	288	400	133	26.7
Leonard, LAC	25	223	150	641	25.6
Drummond, DET	31	264	104	677	21.8
Mitchell, UTA	32	302	133	808	25.3
Ingram, NOP	29	229	145	731	25.2
Dallas, OKC	27	234	104	677	25.1

### Rebounds

Rebounds	G	Fg	FT	PTS	AVG
Drummond, DET	31	137	58	495	16.0
Antetokounmpo, MIL	31	109	280	38	14.4
Sabonis, IND	31	103	211	422	14.1
Capela, NOP	31	103	211	414	13.4
Robertson, TOR	31	103	211	414	13.4
Antetokounmpo, MIL	31	82	319	401	12.9
Embiid, PHI	29	82	319	401	12.9
Towns, MIN	23	63	206	269	11.7
Love, CLE	26	65	288	106	10.6
Aditya, MIA	32	62	234	107	10.6

### Assists

Assists	G	Fg	FT	PTS	AVG
James, LAL	31	38	34	10.8	8.2
Curry, DAL	29	211	124	56.2	9.2
Doncic, DAL	27	235	9.1	34.1	8.7
Simmons, PHI	31	287	8.3	28.7	8.3
Young, ATL	31	288	201	7.6	7.6
Graham, CHA	34	259	7.6	7.6	7.6
Lillard, POR	31	235	7.6	7.6	7.6

## Roundup

# Butler paces Heat over 76ers in OT

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jimmy Butler made the second of two free throws with 2.3 seconds left in overtime, giving the Miami Heat a wild 117-116 overtime victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Butler finished with 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists to help Miami improve its NBA home record to 15-1 and move back into second place in the Eastern Conference. He was fouled by Al Horford as he tried a jumper for the lead, missed the first foul shot and then connected on the second. Tobias Harris had a good look at a three-pointer as time expired, but his shot from the right corner hit the rim and bounced away.

Miami got a one-point win for the second straight night, after topping Indiana at home Friday. Philadelphia lost by one for the second straight night, after falling at Orlando on Friday — the first time the 76ers have lost consecutive games by a single point since Jan. 25 and 27, 1995.

Lakers 128, Trail Blazers 120: Kyle Kuzma scored 24 points, LeBron James had 21 points and 16 assists, and Los Angeles won at Portland to snap a season-long four-game losing streak.

Kuzma highlighted a strong performance by the Lakers' reserves, who provided 72 bench points. The Trail Blazers' bench scored 36 points.

Raptors 113, Celtics 97: Kyle Lowry scored 30 points, Serge Ibaka had 20 and visiting Toronto snapped Boston's five-game winning streak.

Patrick McCaw and Fred VanVleet each added 18 points to help the defending champion Raptors avenge a loss on Christmas and send the Celtics to their second loss in 15 games at home this season.

Rockets 108, Nets 98: James Harden had 44 points and 10 rebounds and host Houston built a big early lead and withstood a late rally from Brooklyn.

The Rockets have won five of six games, with their only loss coming against Golden State on Christmas.

Bucks 111, Magic 110: Khris Middleton scored 21 points and host Milwaukee overcame Giannis Antetokounmpo's absence for the second straight night.

Antetokounmpo, the NBA MVP last season, also missed the Bucks' victory Friday in Atlanta because of back soreness.

Nuggets 119, Grizzlies 110:

Nikola Jokic scored a season-high 31 points and had 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his seventh triple-double of the season and 35th overall, leading host Denver past Memphis.

Will Barton added 20 points and Jamal Murray and Mason Plumlee each had 15 to help the Nuggets win for the eighth time in nine games.

Bulls 116, Hawks 81: Lauri Markkanen had 25 points, Zach LaVine added 19 and host Chicago nearly led wire-to-wire against short-handed Atlanta.

Battling an illness and questionable until a few hours before the game, Markkanen was 8-for-14 from the field, making four of nine three-pointers. The Bulls have won three of four.

Pelicans 120, Pacers 98: Brandon Ingram scored 24 points, Jrue Holiday added 20 and host New Orleans won its third straight.

JJ Redick scored 15 points, and Lonzo Ball added 13 for the Pelicans. Aaron Holiday scored 25 points for Indiana.

Knicks 107, Wizards 100: Julius Randle scored 30 points and equaled a season high with 16 rebounds, Bobby Portis added 17 points and New York won at Washington.

It was the Knicks' second straight victory, just the second time this season they've won two straight. Both wins have come on the road.

Spurs 136, Pistons 109: DeMar DeRozan had 29 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 25 points and 12 rebounds and host San Antonio hit a season-high 18 three-pointers.

The Spurs were 18-for-35 from three-point range, including a career-high five by Aldridge. San Antonio set a season-high with 42 points in the third quarter.

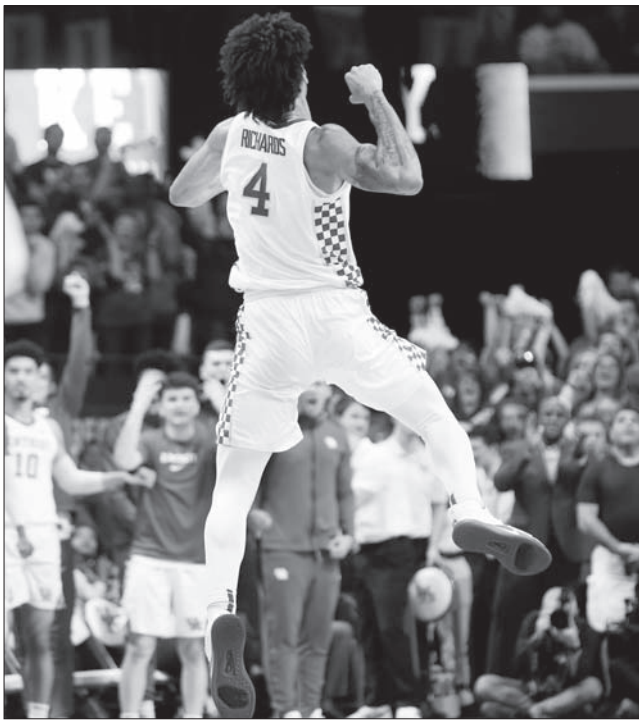
Suns 112, Kings 110: Devin Booker had 32 points and 10 assists and Phoenix won at Sacramento to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Kelly Oubre Jr. added 20 points and 16 rebounds, and Ricky Rubio had 21 points and eight assists.

Cavaliers 94, Timberwolves 88: Darius Garland and Collin Sexton each scored 18 points and Cleveland overcame an NBA season high-tying 29 turnovers to win at Minnesota.

Jazz 120, Clippers 107: Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Jordan Clarkson added 19 points in his second game with his new team, and Utah won at Los Angeles.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kentucky's Nick Richards celebrates during overtime of his team's 78-70 defeat of Louisville on Saturday in Lexington, Ky. Richards had 13 points, including seven in a row in overtime.

# Bluegrass battle

## No. 19 Kentucky outlasts rival No. 3 Louisville in OT

By GARY B. GRAVES  
Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Nick Richards did whatever heavy lifting No. 19 Kentucky needed against rival Louisville, intensity that put him on the brink of fouling out.

He eventually harnessed his energy into clutch contributions on both ends of the floor and celebrated big steps in the Wildcats' much-needed victory by punching the air.

Richards had 13 points, including seven in a row in overtime, and Kentucky scored the final eight points for a 78-70 victory over No. 3 Louisville on Saturday in a thrilling Bluegrass rivalry showdown.

Louisville led 68-65 on Jordan Nwora's three-pointer with 2:20 left before Richards converted a three-point play and added a layup to make it 70-68 with 1:23 remaining. The junior forward added two more foul shots for

a 72-70 lead before Immanuel Quickley and Tyrese Maxey provided a six-point cushion from the line. Ashton Hagans' dunk with 4.9 seconds left sealed the tense win for the Wildcats (9-3) before 20,437 at Rupp Arena.

"I just played smarter," said Richards, who also had 10 rebounds, a block and took a couple of charges in the extra session. "I noticed that when they were driving on me they were lowering their shoulders on me, so I just tried to take charges on those. I was really happy that they called those charges. If he (the official) had called a block, I don't know what would have happened."

While Richards provided the post presence, Maxey helped out with big baskets.

The freshman guard's free throws capped a career-best 27-point performance that topped his previous high by one in his collegiate debut against top-ranked Michigan State. For a while he seemed destined for all the praise

with clutch shots during a back-and-forth second half before his teammate picked up the load in the extra session.

"I was just saying, 'We're good,'" said Maxey, who made nine of 14 shots with four three-pointers. "Trailing by three points with two minutes left, we had a lot of time and lot of possessions. We just had to get stops."

The overtime was the first in a regular-season game between the schools and the first since Louisville won 80-68 on March 26, 1983 in the NCAA Tournament.

The Wildcats ended a two-game losing streak in which Utah and Ohio State both shot 50% or better against them in Las Vegas. Quickley had 18 points for Kentucky, which shot 46% for its 11th win over Louisville in 13 meetings.

Steven Enoch had 18 points and Dwayne Sutton 10 for the Cardinals (11-2). Louisville shot just 40% and made just three in nine in overtime.

## To 25 roundup

# Duke downs Brown for fifth straight win

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Vernon Carey Jr. scored 19 points to help No. 4 Duke beat Brown 75-50 on a day when the Blue Devils' jump shots rarely fell.

Alex O'Connell added 14 points and Wendell Moore Jr. had 10 points for Duke (11-1) in its final nonconference game of the regular season.

The Blue Devils took the lead for good with an 11-1 run midway through the first half and pulled away late in the second half with an 18-2 spurt.

Duke won its fifth consecutive game, all by at least 12 points, since their 150-game home winning streak against nonconference opponents ended against Stephen F. Austin on Nov. 26.

Brandon Anderson scored 16 points to lead the Bears (5-6) in their third consecutive loss. Brown trailed 35-29 at halftime.

**No. 9 Memphis 97, New Orleans 55:** Precious Achiuwa had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Lester Quinones added 13 points as the host Tigers built a huge first-half lead and easily beat the Privateers.

Quinones, who returned after missing the previous five games with a broken right hand, made all three of his three-point shots as Memphis (11-1) extended its winning streak to nine. Tyler Harris finished with 11 points, while DJ Jeffries and Isaiah Maurice added 10 points each.

Troy Green led New Orleans with 22 points while Bryson Robinson added 15 as the Privateers (4-8) lost their third straight.

**No. 12 Butler 67, Louisiana-Monroe 36:** Derrick Smits scored 16 points off the bench to lead the host Bulldogs to a victory.

Bryce Nze had 10 points and seven rebounds and Sean McDermott scored 10 points for Butler (12-1), which have won three in a row.

Josh Nicholas had 12 points while Michael Ertel, JD Williams and Elijah Ifejele each scored five points for the Warhawks (4-7).

**No. 15 San Diego State 73, Cal Poly 57:** Malachi Flynn scored 14 points and the host Aztecs overcame a slow beginning to continue their best start in nine seasons and remain one of three undefeated teams nationally.

Yanni Wetzell and Jordan Schakel added 12 points apiece for San Diego State (13-0). The Aztecs needed a 9-0 run at the end of the first half to take control against the scrappy Mustangs (2-11).

SDSU remains on its hottest start since 2010-11, when it opened 20-0 behind Kawhi Leonard and reached the Sweet 16 for the first time before finishing 34-3.

**No. 17 Florida State 88, North Alabama 71:** Malik Osborne scored 12 of his 14 points in the first half as the host Seminoles cruised to a win over the Lions.

Balsa Koprivica added 13 points while Trent Forrest had 10 points and six assists for Florida State (11-2), which has won seven of its games by 10 or more points.

Jamari Blackmon scored 15 points and Christian Agnew added 12 points and eight rebounds for North Alabama (5-8).

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## California, Illinois share defensive mindset



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

California coach Justin Wilcox, left, like Illinois coach Lovie Smith, his Redbox Bowl counterpart, is a defensive-minded coach.

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — As a defensive-minded coach trying to find his way in college football, California's Justin Wilcox was naturally drawn to watching tapes of Lovie Smith's teams at Illinois. When the two coaches got together a few weeks ago to promote Monday's Redbox Bowl, Wilcox was like a kid at Christmas.

"I used to study him all the time. He's an excellent coach," Wilcox said. "We had a media event two weeks ago and I got to spend part of the day with him. I probably bothered him, I was asking so many questions, but it was really cool for me."

Smith, whose coaching path has taken him to the NFL and back, is equally a fan of Wilcox and spent much of the past week heaping praise on his California counterpart.

The affinity between the two might also be a result of the similar seasons they've gone through this year as well.

Both the Golden Bears (7-5) and Fighting Illini (6-6) endured four-game losing streaks. Both dealt with starting quarterbacks who were in and out of the lineup because of injuries. And both had to rely on their defense to salvage their seasons.

Not surprisingly, both coaches see Monday's game at Levi's Stadium as an opportunity to build momentum for next season.

"Our program has made so many strides this year," Smith said. "What a bowl victory would do would just give us momentum going into the next year as much as anything. We didn't finish the season up the way we wanted, so to have a good taste in our mouth would be pretty important for us."

Illinois feels a lot better about its chances now that quarterback Brandon Peters has been cleared to play. Peters sat out the team's regular-season finale with a concussion, and there were concerns he would have to miss the Redbox Bowl before doctors approved his return.

A graduate transfer from Michigan, Peters passed for 1,611 yards and 17 touchdowns with seven interceptions. He'll be facing a California pass defense that has been one of the best in the country over the past two seasons.

"One thing about Brandon, he's even-keel and that's a good thing. I saw that the first time we brought him over for a visit," Smith said. "Just what they would be a perfect fit for what we're trying to do."

## BOWL MATCHUPS

**Music City Bowl**  
**Mississippi State (6-6)**  
**vs. Louisville (7-5)**  
**10 p.m. Monday CET,**  
**6 a.m. Tuesday JKT,**  
**AFN-Sports**

**Series record** — Mississippi State leads 3-2 but has never lost to Louisville on the field. The Bulldogs forfeited wins in 1975 and 1976.

**What's at stake?** — Mississippi State can finish with its first three-game season-ending winning streak since 2013 and only the third since the end of World War II for a coach whose Egg Bowl win helped Joe Moorhead keep his job. Louisville can help the Cardinals' amazing turnaround on coach Scott Satterfield's debut season by making him only the second coach to win his first bowl. A win also would be Louisville's first on the field against Mississippi State.

**Key matchup** — Louisville's run game — which is led by Javian Hawkins, who is averaging 118.3 yards a contest while piling up 1,420 yards averaging 5.9 yards a carry — against Mississippi State's defense. The Bulldogs rank 56th nationally defending the run, allowing only 148.6 yards a game.

**Players to watch** — Mississippi State: RB Kylin Hill. The first-team All-Southeastern Conference junior is playing his first game before entering the NFL draft. He led the SEC with 1,347 yards rushing and eight 100-yard rushing games.

**Louisville:** QB Micalle Cunningham. The Cardinals rank 36th nationally in total offense thanks to the redshirt sophomore providing some balance, averaging 162.4 yards passing a game. He has thrown 20 touchdowns with only five interceptions and is 6-4 as a starter.

**Facts & figures** — Tommy Stevens will start at QB for Mississippi State with freshman Garrett Shrader likely out with an upper-body injury suffered during bowl practices. ... Mississippi State is appearing in its 10th straight bowl game and is one of only five SEC programs — and one of 13 FBS programs — to go to a bowl each season between 2010-2019. The Bulldogs are 13-9 overall in bowls. ... Mississippi State beat Louisville 31-27 in 2017 TaxSlayer Bowl in last meeting between teams. ... This is second Miss State berth berth for both teams. Mississippi State beat Wake Forest here in 2011, and Louisville beat Texas A&M in 2015.

**Redbox Bowl**  
**Illinois (6-6)**  
**vs. California (7-5)**  
**10 p.m. Monday CET,**  
**6 a.m. Tuesday JKT,**  
**AFN-Sports2**

**Series record** — Illinois leads 7-3.

**What's at stake?** — The Bears are in the post-season for a second consecutive season under third-year coach Justin Wilcox. The Fighting Illini will be attempting to win a bowl game for the first time with Lovie Smith as coach in their first trip to a bowl game since 2014.

**Key matchup** — Illinois QB Brandon Peters vs. California's secondary. Peters was held out of the Fighting Illini's last game against Northwestern because of a concussion, his second of the season. Although there was some concern he might not play in the Redbox Bowl, Peters was cleared and says he feels fine. Peters passed for 1,611 yards and 17 touchdowns with seven interceptions. He faces a Bears pass defense that has been solid most of the year. In 12 games, California's secondary allowed 15 touchdown passes, third-best in the Pac-12.

**Players to watch** — California: Consensus All-America LB Evan Weaver needs 21 tackles to break the NCAA single-season record. The Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year, Weaver has been a monster on defense all season with 173 tackles. Three times this year he's had 21 or more in one game.

**Illinois:** RB Reggie Corbin had mixed success this season but has been a force in the Illini's backfield while averaging nearly five yards a carry. Corbin is 12th on Illinois' career rushing charts with 2,320 yards. He has two 100-yard games this season while splitting time in the backfield with Dre Brown.

**Facts & figures** — California has played Illinois more than any other Big Ten team. The Bears have allowed 25 points or more only four times in their last 25 games. ... California is 6-0 this season when off-injured QB Chase Garbers plays at least one half. ... Weaver has 26 more tackles than any other player in FBS. ... California safety Jaylin Hawkins has nine career interceptions, tied for seventh among active NCAA players. ... Bears RB Christopher Brown Jr. has 11 TDs in 12 games. ... This is the first game between California and Illinois since 2005. The Bears won 35-20.

**Orange Bowl**  
**No. 6 Florida (10-2)**  
**vs. Virginia (9-4)**  
**2 a.m. Tuesday CET,**  
**10 a.m. Tuesday JKT,**  
**AFN-Sports**

**Series record** — Florida leads 1-0, but the teams last met when the Gators rolled to a 55-10 win in 1959.

**What's at stake?** — Florida has had back-to-back strong seasons and has the chance to close out the year on a high note in its home state. Virginia, despite being a two-touchdown underdog, won't just roll over. The Cavaliers have elevated their level of play as a program under Bronco Mendenhall and now have the opportunity to play on a big stage.

**Key matchup** — Florida's passing game, which averages more than 300 yards a game, against Virginia's defensive pressure. Virginia, led by DE Jordan Mack (7½ sacks), the Cavaliers are No. 6 in the country with 45 sacks.

**Players to watch** — Florida: QB Kyle Trask has thrown for 2,636 yards and 24 touchdowns, completing 67.6% of his passes. He started the season as the backup after not starting a game at quarterback since his freshman year of high school. He stepped in to replace the injured Felipe Franks.

**Virginia:** QB Bryce Pinkins is a legitimate dual threat with 3,960 total yards, 18 passing touchdowns and 11 rushing touchdowns. All-ACC second-team selection, he started all 13 games for the Cavaliers.

**Facts & figures** — The Gators' only losses were to championship-bound LSU and SEC finalist Georgia. ... Virginia will be the "home" team for the game but Florida — with a massive fan base in the Miami area — will unquestionably have the bulk of the crowd. Gators coach Dan Mullen inherited a rebuild after Florida went 4-7 in 2017, and he's posted two straight 10-win seasons since taking over in Gainesville. And with a win, the Gators would have back-to-back top-10 finishes in the AP poll for the first time since 2008 and 2009. ... Virginia is 1-8 at Hard Rock Stadium, including 0-3 in bowl games there and a loss to Miami earlier this season. The three bowl losses in that stadium came by a combined 86 points. But the Cavaliers' win total has increased in three straight seasons under coach Mendenhall, who was 2-10 in his debut 2016 campaign there.

**First Responder Bowl**  
**Western Kentucky (8-4)**  
**vs. Western Michigan (9-5)**  
**6:30 p.m. Monday CET,**  
**2:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT,**  
**AFN-Sports**

**Series record** — Western Michigan leads 11-3-1.

**What's at stake?** — Western Kentucky has a three-game winning streak, and has won seven of nine games, since a 1-2 start that included a season-opening loss to FCS team Central Arkansas. Western Michigan is in its eighth bowl in 14 seasons, but has won only one of those games. This is the 15th meeting between the two schools, but the first 14 games were all between 1923-47.

**Key matchup** — Western Michigan freshman WR Skyy Moore, an All-MAC pick, vs. the Western Kentucky secondary. Moore had 13 catches for 287 yards in the last two games. The Hilltoppers, with standout safeties Devon Key and Antwon Kincaid, have allowed only 200.5 yards passing per game.

**Players to watch** — Western Kentucky: DE DeAngelo Malone was the Conference USA defensive player of the year. He has 90 tackles with 11½ sacks and 21 tackles for loss, the most at the school in the FBS era since 2009.

**Western Michigan:** The Broncos have the MAC's offensive and defensive players of the year. RB LeVante Bellamy has 1,412 yards and a national-best 23 TDs rushing. LB Treshawn Howard has 132 tackles, including 10½ tackles for loss and five sacks.

**Facts & figures** — Conference USA is 8-3 in bowl games against MAC teams since 2012. In the only other such matchup this season, MAC team Buffalo beat C-USA's Charlotte 31-9 in the Bahamas Bowl. ... Western Michigan also played a bowl in the Dallas area three seasons ago, when the Broncos were the Group of Five representative in the New Year's Six, and lost to Wisconsin in the Cotton Bowl. ... The First Responder Bowl last year was canceled after being stopped in the first quarter because of thunderstorms and lingering bad weather. Boston College led Boise State 7-0 when the game was stopped. ... The game is being played on SMU's campus instead of Cotton Bowl Stadium, where the NHL will host an outdoor game Wednesday matching the Dallas Stars and Nashville Predators. — Associated Press

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Cotton Bowl

# The takeaway: Penn State's D does in Tigers

Pick-six, six sacks lift No. 13 Nittany Lions to high-scoring victory over No. 15 Memphis

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — All-America linebacker Micah Parsons led the big blitz for Penn State, and he had Brady White all wrapped up when the Memphis quarterback suddenly flipped away the ball — right into the hands of Garrett Taylor.

On a day when the Nittany Lions' defense gave up its most points and yards all season, Taylor turned that gift into a 15-yard interception return for a touchdown in a 53-39 victory over the Group of Five Tigers on Saturday in the highest-scoring Cotton Bowl ever.

"A huge momentum shift," Taylor said.

Journey Brown ran for 202 yards with two long touchdowns, but the Parsons-created pick-six came three plays after Brown was stopped short on a fourth-and-1. Taylor put the No. 13 Nittany Lions (11-2, No. 10 CFP) up 45-36 going into the fourth quarter of the 84th Cotton Bowl.

"For our defense to come back and what you probably consider a sudden-change situation, and be able to get that play, I think it was a huge momentum play," coach James Franklin said.

Said Parsons: "The game was going back and forth, and I thought the team who had a de-

fensive turnover would win, and we got one when we needed."

Brown was the offensive MVP and Parsons, with 14 tackles and two sacks, was the game's top defensive player. Both had gone back and forth about that possibility during practice this week.

"We go against him all the time ... nobody prepares and prepares for those opportunities and those moments more than this guy does," Brown said of Parsons, who was sitting right by him.

American Athletic Conference champion and No. 15 Memphis (12-2, No. 17 CFP) played its first game under coach Ryan Silverfield. The offensive line coach was promoted when Mike Norvell left after four seasons to become Florida State's coach this month.

"It just didn't end the way we wanted to," Silverfield said. "I have to do a better job as a head coach to make sure all three phases are prepared."

White was 32-for-51 passing for 454 yards with two interceptions. He had a rushing touchdown, as did Patrick Taylor Jr. and Kenneth Gainwell. The rest of the Tigers' points came on a Cotton Bowl-record six field goals by Riley Patterson.

The Tigers finished with 542 total yards. But White was sacked a season-high six times and didn't throw a touchdown for the first time since the season opener.



RON JENNIS/AP

Penn State running back Journey Brown ran for 202 yards and two touchdowns in his team's 45-36 defeat of Memphis in Saturday's Cotton Bowl in Arlington, Texas.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN M. DOWELL, ORLANDO SENTINEL/AP

Notre Dame wide receiver Chase Claypool hauls in a 24-yard touchdown catch. He had seven catches for 146 yards in his team's 33-9 win over Iowa State at the Camping World Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

## Camping World Bowl

# No. 14 Irish rout Cyclones

By FRED GOODALL  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — So much for the notion that No. 14 Notre Dame didn't have anything to play for in the Camping World Bowl.

A year removed from an appearance in the CFP national semifinals, the Fighting Irish closed out another double-digit win season with arguably their best all-around performance in a 33-9 victory over Iowa State on Saturday.

"I'm just so proud of our football team. 2019 will be one that I'll always remember, for a group of guys that just loved to play the game. They had such a strong brotherhood," coach Brian Kelly said.

"They did not listen to what the naysayers had to say about them. The negative tone, the negative people out there. All they cared about was playing the game," Kelly added. "It was clean. It was about competing. Always looking to better themselves."

Ian Book threw for 247 yards and a touchdown, Tony Jones Jr. scored on an 84-yard run and game MVP Chase Claypool had seven receptions for 146 yards and a TD for the Irish (11-2, No. 15 CFP), who finished on a six-game winning streak after losing to Michigan to tumble out of contention for a playoff berth in late October.

Notre Dame also lost to Georgia in September; however, Kelly said the team remained focused and continued to focus and get



Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly hugs quarterback Ian Book during Saturday's Camping World Bowl. Book threw for 247 yards and a touchdown.

better.

"Even this week. 'Notre Dame is not ready to play.' They used that as another form of motivation to show people wrong. They just read this team wrong," Kelly said. "It's just so satisfying that this group has been rewarded with 11 wins. ... They overcame adversity, lived the life lessons of it. They're not perfect. They never pretended to be perfect and never wanted to be, but always strived for excellence."

Book completed 20 of 28 passes without an interception, including a 27-yard TD throw to Claypool, who went over 1,000 yards receiving for the season and also recov-

ered a fumble on special teams to set up an early field goal.

The Cyclones (7-6) lost to four ranked teams — Iowa, Oklahoma, Baylor and Oklahoma State — by a combined 11 points this season and was hoping to end its fourth season under Matt Campbell with a signature win for a once-down-trodden program.

"You know, when we got here ... there wasn't even a thought that we could compete with teams like this. There was no thought that we could compete with the best teams in our conference," Campbell said. "And, you know, to be quite honest with you, I don't know if there was a lot of people that thought we could compete with our rival in our own state."

Brook Purdy was 17-for-30 for 222 yards and no interceptions for Iowa State, but he was unable to get his team into the end zone after throwing for a school single-season record 27 TDs during the regular season.

The sophomore quarterback left the game in the closing minutes with what Campbell described as a high ankle sprain.

Connor Assalley kicked field goals of 41, 26 and 42 yards. "I think you're so disappointed is because you feel how close you really are to where you want to be," Campbell said.

"Getting over that hump, taking that next step, that's a great challenge," Campbell added. "It's a great challenge for Iowa State football, but no greater challenge, to be honest with you, than I'd rather tackle than that."

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL



IAN MAULE, TULSA WORLD/AP

**LSU wide receiver Justin Jefferson extends for a touchdown while Oklahoma safety Pat Fields attempts to stop him during the first half of the Peach Bowl on Saturday.**

## Runaway: Tigers advance to title game

FROM BACK PAGE

The Tigers (14-0) are headed to the title game against No. 3 Clemson — a 29-23 winner over No. 2 Ohio State in the second semifinal — clicking on all cylinders, having dismantled the Sooners (12-2) with a 30-minute outburst that will long be remembered in Cajun country.

“We go into every game thinking nobody can stop us,” Burrow said.

Certainly, the Sooners couldn’t.

Burrow tied the record for a college bowl game with his seven TD passes — which all came before the bands hit the field for the halftime show. Justin Jefferson was on the receiving end for four of those scoring plays, also tying a bowl record.

As if that wasn’t enough, Burrow scored an eighth TD on a 3-yard run in the third quarter, thoroughly dominating his expected duel with Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts, the Heisman runner-up.

Yet, the postgame celebration was weighed down by heavy hearts.

LSU offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger learned shortly before kickoff that his daughter-in-law, broadcaster Carley McCord, was among five people killed in a plane crash in Louisiana. The small plane went down shortly after takeoff for what was supposed to be a flight to Atlanta for the game.

Head coach Ed Orgeron delivered the news to Ensminger.

“Coach, we’re going to get through this,” Ensminger told his boss.

Then the coordinator learned of his usual spot in the box, calling plays alongside passing game coordinator Joe Brady.

It was a brilliant, poignant performance in the face of such grief. The players didn’t learn until afterward what Ensminger was going through.

“I can’t think of what he was able to do today with the circumstances,” Brady said. “It speaks to the type of man he is.”

LSU needed only three plays to race 42 yards for its first score — a perfectly thrown ball over Jefferson’s shoulder for a 19-yard TD less than 3 minutes into the game.

Oklahoma briefly put up a fight. Hurts’ 51-yard pass to Cedee Lamb set up a 3-yard touchdown run by Kennedy Brooks that tied the score at 7.

After that, the rout was on.

It was 49-14 by halftime.

Jefferson hauled in a 35-yard pass for touchdown No. 2. Then a 42-yarder for No. 3. And, finally, a 30-yard scoring strike that left him counting off four fingers for the crowd — all before the midway point of the second quarter.

Terrace Marshall Jr. contributed to the onslaught with TD catches of 8 and 2 yards. Tight end Thaddeus Moss — the son of NFL Hall of Fame receiver Randy Moss — made his daddy proud by getting free behind the secondary, hauling in a pass and shoving off a fast-closing defender to complete the 62-yard scoring play.

“One team, one heartbeat,” Orgeron said.

It was a miserable finale for Hurts, who closed out a nomadic college career that began with him leading Alabama to two national championship games before losing his starting job to Tua Tagovailoa. After graduating, Hurts transferred to Oklahoma for a one-and-done season that produced some dazzling numbers but ended short of the ultimate goal.

Running for his life most of the game, Hurts was largely stymied on the ground and through the air. He ran for two touchdowns but gained just 43 yards with his legs. He was held to 15-for-31 for 217 yards passing, giving up a brilliant, leading interception to Kary Vincent Jr. that quickly brought the LSU offense back on the field as the Tigers were blowing the game open.

“We needed to take advantage of every opportunity we had against a team like this,” Hurts said. “We failed to do that.”

The Tigers will head back to Louisiana for a de facto home game at the Superdome on Jan. 13. That mirrors their last title ride during the 2007 season, when they beat Ohio State 38-24 in New Orleans for the BCS championship. “Just getting there is not our final destination,” Orgeron said. “We’re looking to win it.”

### The takeaway

**Oklahoma:** Playing for the first time in a city where the Braves have become notorious for their flops in the Major League Baseball playoffs, the Sooners turned in a familiar performance. They have made the College Football Playoff four times in the six-year history of the format, but have yet to win a game. That could affect the way the selection committee views the Sooners the next time they’re in the mix — or any other Big 12 school, for that matter.

**LSU:** While this game will be remembered for the dynamic offensive showing, the Tigers’ defense kept up its encouraging turnaround over the latter part of the season. They held Oklahoma to 322 yards — far below its 554.2-yard average coming into the game. The front line kept the heat on Hurts, who was sacked twice and often wound up on his backside when he got the ball away.

## Challenge: Clemson rallied from 16-0 deficit

FROM BACK PAGE

No. 3 Clemson had to tap into its championship DNA to advance to the College Football Playoff title game for the fourth time in five years.

Trevor Lawrence connected with Travis Etienne on a 34-yard, go-ahead touchdown with 1:49 left in the fourth quarter, capping a 94-yard march, and the defending national champions beat No. 2 Ohio State 29-23 Saturday night in the Fiesta Bowl.

“We finish,” said Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, whose Tigers are 100-2 when leading going into the fourth quarter since 2011. “That’s not just who we are. That’s what we do.”

The Tigers (14-0) will play No. 1 LSU on Jan. 13 in New Orleans, looking for their third national title in the past four seasons.

Clemson played only one close game this season, a one-point war back in September against North Carolina. Otherwise the Tigers rarely played to play a starter in the fourth quarter.

“Everybody kept saying we didn’t play nobody, that we blow out teams. Tonight showed what we can do,” Clemson receiver Tee Higgins said. “We showed everybody we got fight in us.”

Ohio State (13-1) proved to be every bit Clemson’s match, although the Buckeyes walked away frustrated by several close officiating calls. Especially two video reviews that could have gone either way and didn’t go their way.

“One play can alter the game,” Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. “It didn’t seem like we got any of those plays.”

The Buckeyes had their 19-game winning streak snapped, losing for the first time under Day.

Ohio State jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the first half and then responded to a Clemson rally to retake the lead, 23-21 in the fourth quarter.

The Tigers got the ball down two at their own will with 3:07 left in the fourth quarter. Lawrence, after being up and down for much of the night, suddenly found the Golden Boy form that he used to lead Clemson to a national title as a freshman last year.

The Tigers needed four plays and 1:18, with Lawrence completing all three of his passes and mixing in an 11-yard run. The sophomore quarterback who has never lost a college start passed for 259 yards and two scores and ran for a career-high 107 yards, including a 67-yard touchdown late in the first half.

“Just the fight of this team. Didn’t play great. Didn’t look pretty, but just finding a way to get it done,” Lawrence said.

Lawrence added a two-point conversion pass to Higgins, but left plenty of time for Ohio State and Justin Fields to respond. The Buckeyes drove to the Clemson 23, but on second-and-7, Fields fired to the end zone and his pass was intercepted by Nolan Turner with 37 seconds left. Ohio State receiver Chris Olave had broken off his route thinking it was going to be a scramble. “That ball was supposed to go to me and I was supposed to run a post and I believe it would have been a touchdown. Definitely put it on me,” Olave said.

The pick secured Clemson’s 29th consecutive victory and the Tigers improved to 6-2 in playoff games.

I told Ryan, that Ohio State team, what an unbelievable game, their quarterback, their back, those guys played their hearts out,” Swinney said. “But in the end, our guys showed what they’re made of. They’ve got the heart of a champion, they’ve got the eye of a tiger.”

Ohio State went into the fourth quarter trailing 21-16, and with everything seemingly going Clemson’s way. Buckeyes star J.K. Dobbins ran for 174 yards, including



RICK SCUTENIA/AP

**Clemson running back Travis Etienne celebrates his touchdown against Ohio State during the second half of the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday.**

two 60-plus yarders in the first half, but was slowed by a twisted left ankle late in the second quarter.

Fields heated up and orchestrated an 84-yard drive capped by a fourth-and-short, 23-yard touchdown pass to Olave to give what he made 23-21 with 11:46 left in the fourth.

Fields, who went to high school 20 miles from Lawrence in the northwest suburbs of Atlanta, passed for 320 yards and a touchdown. But he threw two interceptions after throwing just one during the regular season.

It was the first matchup between the two former five-star recruit quarterbacks from the class of 2018. They were far from perfect, but both delivered in crunch time. If this is the start of a long rivalry, bring it on.

### The takeaway

**Clemson:** The Tigers were in danger of being blown out in the first half, but they managed to come up with three red-zone stops, where Ohio State settled for field goals. Then they scored two touchdowns in the final three minutes of the half to make it a new game.

“I told them at the half I think we took their best punch,” Swinney said.

**Ohio State:** The calls that folks in Columbus will be talking about for a long time.

■ A targeting foul on defensive back Shaun Wade in the second quarter kept Clemson’s first touchdown drive alive when the Buckeyes were up 16-0.

■ A roughing the punter call against the Buckeyes did the same in the third quarter and led to Clemson taking its first lead.

■ It looked as if Ohio State regained the lead in the third quarter when All-American Jeff Okudah stripped Clemson’s Justyn Ross and Jordan Fuller scooped and scored. A video review ruled Ross had not completed the catch and turned a touchdown into an incomplete pass.

Fuller said he had a feeling the fumble was going to be overturned.

“Yeah, just because of the way the game was going,” he said.



## SPORTS



## Richards sinks rivals

Junior forward powers Kentucky past Louisville in OT » College basketball, Page 19

# Eye of the Tigers

LSU routs Oklahoma, Clemson rallies to defeat Ohio State in CFP semifinals



DANNY KARNIK/AP

LSU wide receiver Justin Jefferson hauls in a touchdown catch against Oklahoma safety Justin Broiles during the first half of the Peach Bowl on Saturday in Atlanta. Jefferson caught four TD passes as the Tigers beat the Sooners 63-28. LSU (14-0) will meet Clemson (14-0) for the national championship Jan. 13 in New Orleans.

## Heisman winner Burrow throws for 7TDs in Peach Bowl runaway

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Joe Burrow and the LSU Tigers turned in a first half for the ages, a breathtaking offensive display even as their coordinator grieved a horrific tragedy from his box high above the field.

This team from the bayou is truly something special.

With one more victory, it will be a national champion.

In his first game as a Heisman Trophy winner, Burrow threw for seven touchdowns and 493 yards as No. 1 LSU romped to a stunning 63-28 victory over No. 4 Oklahoma in the Peach Bowl semifinal game Saturday.

SEE RUNAWAY ON PAGE 23



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Quarterback Trevor Lawrence passed for two TDs and ran for a score as Clemson beat Ohio State 29-23 in the Fiesta Bowl on Saturday night in Glendale, Ariz.

## Clemson rises to rare challenge, gets to 4th title game in 5 years

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Blaring from the Clemson locker room after yet another playoff victory was Aretha Franklin's classic "Respect."

The Tigers have won two of the past three national championships and become college football's gold-standard program, yet still often feel overlooked. Doubtful. Disrespected.

Sure, Clemson ran roughshod through the Atlantic Coast Conference. But was it too easy?

Facing a serious challenger for the first time in months,

SEE CHALLENGE ON PAGE 23

Penn State defense the difference in win over Memphis » Cotton Bowl, Page 22

Irish put together complete effort in victory over Iowa State » Camping World Bowl, Page 22



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